

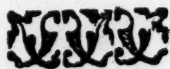
THE ENGLISH Courtier, and the Cūtrei-gentleman

A pleasaunt and learned Disputation,
betweene them both: very profitable and ne-
cessarie to be read of all Nobilitie
and Gentlemen.

VVherein is discoursed, vvhat
order of lyfe, best becometh a Gentleman, (aswell, for e-
ducation, as the course of his whole life) to make him a
person fyttē for the publique seruice of his Prince and
Countrey.

Imprinted at London, by

Richard Iones : dwelling at the signe
of the Rose and Crowne neere
vnto Holborne Bridge. 1586.



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To the right Honorable, Sir *Francis*
Walsingham Knight, her *Maiesties*

• principall Secretary, and of her Highnesse priuy

Counsell : *Richarde Iones* **Printer**, wisheth

longe life, health, and increase of honour.

Right Honourable Sir, sometimes, a prety conceite well conuayed, contenteth the minde, no lesse then a graue & great booke. In euery written worke, two thinges bee specially required, Inuention, and Phrase: The one, is the substance or matter: the other, the forme or facion: but if they bee both good, they make the worke persite, & win the worker commendacion. Yea, otherwhiles, a silly Subiet substantially handled, is not onely passable, but also praiseable. A litle flower well sauored is worthy smelling: A trifling stone set by a cunning craftesman, deserueth to be worne: A poore Pamphlet persitly handled, asketh the reading. I beseeche you then,

• A ii

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The Epistle dedicatory.

giue leaue, and let mee present your Honor with this litle Dialogue, written by a Gentlemā, rather for pastime, then settled studdy: and yet in my poore minde, both for wise conceyt and pleasant penninge, worthy to be read. The Author therof (as a thinge vnworthy) is neither content it should presume to your presence, nor passe among the wise. . Notwithstanding, without his leaue, I make bolde to aduventure the one and the other: And doo most humbly dedicate the same to your Honor, the rather because he hath loued you long, and honoured you much. I craue small praise for my Printing of it, and hee (beinge vsed to loose his labour) desireth nothinge.

Your Honours alwayes (most humbly)
to commaund. R. Iones.

THE AVCTHOR, *to the Gentlemen Readers.*



Lbeit I well know, that euery Gentleman wil gentlemanly iudge of all things: yet haue I thought it no restraynt, but happely some furtherance towards their curteous consideration, most humbly to pray pardon if ought in this present Pamphlet, bee found either in very reason, dissentinge from wiser iudgementes, or els through diuersitie of humores, not fittinge with their fancies: For some I haue seene so passionate in opinion, as can not see or heare patiently any thinge that contenteth not their owne eye, or squareth not euen with the rule of their owne mindes. But, if it pleased them to consider how hardly mennes opinions bee brought to concur, they would (I am sure) spare them selues, and not with choller & offēce, so often trouble their own thoughts: Opinon and custome (as daily experience teacheth) do leade euery one, be hee neuer so foolish or barbarous, to belecue his owne countrey condicions, and self conceytes to bee best: and therein they that haue least reason, do no lesse constantly tary, then those that vpon sound reason in deede, experience, and learninge, haue firmed their iudgementes. For, do wee not finde that the sauadge Nations, are as lothe to alter their soyle, as are wee that inhabite a most cyuill Countrey? Or do you not thinke, that many eyther through want of wil or lack of patiēce to learn, accompt men mad, that hold them selues at continuall study? And contrarywise, would any ciuill man bee pleased, to abandon his beinge, to abide amonge the sauadge? or that would leaue the study of good letters, to take pleasure in those

The Epistle, by the Author,

toyes, which ignorant men delight in? surely no: and no maruaile, fith the wifest, yea the Philsophers them selues, haue euen to this day dissented in opinion. For some you se haue sought the contemplatiue life: others commended the actiue: and many preferred pleasure, as that which ought most to bee desired. Sith then, for so many reasons you finde difference in the opinions of men: and that no counsell, wit, or wil, can perswade them to one minde: my meaning is not, that though in this Dialogue accordinge to mine owne fancie, I preferre the Towne habitation, yet therby to finde fault with any, that either because his reason so perswadeth, or his own minde so delighteth, wil driue out his dayes in the Countrey. It shall therefore please me, that euery man please him selfe, vsinge the liberty and will of his owne minde: and though it be farre diuerse from mine, yet I know not why his opinion should trouble mee, or mine offende him: so longe as the direction of eyther, be still in our owne powers. VVhat harme was it to *Achilles*, though *socrates* refusing al honors, put his whole felicity in vertue? And why should *socrates* bee offended, though about all thinges, *Achilles* desired honour? VVhat maketh it matter, though *Heraclitus*, thought that nothing was contrary to other? Or what offence was it that *permenides*, frantickly affirmed, all worldly things to bee but one thing? And if *zeno* perswaded him selfe that nothing mooued? All which opinions and errors, could nothinge disturbe the patience of the true *philosophers*, who set their delight in contemplation, and loue of Th'almighty.

Tot capita, tot sensus, the Prouerbe sayth: VVe see then, that the endes of mans delights bee diuerse, and for the most parte contrary: although the ende of euery mans life,

to the Gentlemen Readers.

life, is one. The life of man may therefore be compared to Iron, which beeing vsed, becommeth bright and shyning, yet at last worne to nothing: Or if it bee not vsed, but layde vp, doth neuerthelesse consume with rustines. Euen so, mans age well imployed, weareth with some glosse or brightnesse of Fame: or if it bee without action, and obscurely passed, yet doth it not continue euer: for death (certayne) is the end both of the one and the other. God graunt that euery man may lyue in the true feare of the Lorde, and the due obedience of his Prince, so shall hee cyther in Courte, Towne, or Countrey, most happely end his daies.

FINIS.

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The Argument and occasion of this Dialogue.

IT happened (as ofte it doth) that diuerse Gentlemen hainge conuited to dyne togeathers: Among many other thinges, they chaunced to fall in spæche of the Countrey and Courtly lyues, reasoninge whyther it were better for the Gentlemen of Englande to make most abode in their Countrey houses, (as our English manner is,) or els ordinarily to inhabite the Citties and chæse Townes, as in some foraine Nations is the custome. These Gentlemen as they were diuersly disposed and vsed, so were their opinions of this matter likewise differinge: some commending the Countrey dwelling, others preferring the Cittie habitation. This matter a while spoken of by euery one, was at length by assente of the whole company disputed by two Gentlemen, th'one (for this time) I will call Vincent, th'other Vallentine, both men of moze then cōmon capacity, & (haply) sumwhat learned. Vincenc had bene brought up in the Countrey: Vallentine his education and life was in Courts and Citties. Either of them with the best reasons they could, maintayned their opinions, as hereafter in this discourse you shal plainly perceauē.



Of cyuile and vncyuile life.

The Speakers,

Vincent and Valentine.

IT is a strange matter to se, how menne in this age, and in this Realme of England, begin to alter their manners & customes, not onely in garments, & ordinary behaviour, (which be things of none importance:) But even in their order of life, and conuersation.

Valentine.

Sir, it is true, that some doo, but the most doo not: But wherin I pray you, do you note the cheefe chaunge, and in what sortes of men, and whether is this alteratiō, from worse to better, or from better to worse?

Vincent.

This chaunge (wherof I meane) is like to the rest of worldly chaunges: that is, from the better to the worse: for as the Proverb sayth: Seldome coms the better.

Valentine.

That Proverbe in deed is auncient, and for the most part true, beeing truly applied: yet because I am lothe to mistake your meaninge, I desire to know, whether in lamentinge of alteration, you in-
clude

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clude the whole world, or some perticuler countrey:
or whether you will haue mee to apply it to Eng-
land, and to some sortes of English men only: for
with other Nations (I suppose) you haue practised
little.

Vincent.

In deede, I am a home bred bird, and therefore
will not take vpon mee to discourse of forrayne
customes, though I heare they bee bad enough:
But as I tolde you at the first, I am sorpe to see
Englishmen, so apte to leaue their auncient good
fashions, and fall into forrayne manners, in my
poore minde, much worse, then our owne. And
because our talke shall not bee ouer tedious, I will
not at this time tell you of all faultes (wherof I
wishe amendment:) But only of one matter, and
that in one sort of men.

Vallentine.

You do very wisely to reduce matters into brieue;
wherin you shall both ease your selfe, and helpe my
memory; which is. (I confesse) but little worth.

Vincent.

I know (Maister Vallentine) your memory is very
good, & so is there in you many other commendable
partes, though you, for modesty, will not so say.
For you Trauellers are full of respects: and in all
your dooings, your manner is to vse modesty.

Vallentine.

I thanke you Sir, for so sayinge, and more I
thanke you if such bee in deed your opinion of mee.

Vincent.

Touching mine opinion, you shalbe assured, it
is, and euer shalbe such, as I say: for I am (as
I

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I tolde you) a plaine man, vtterly vnacquainted with disguising, and superfluous ceremony, yea in troth, they are thinges much diuers, from mine education, and nature.

Vallentine.

I loue you a great Deale the more, for in good faith, I am made of the selfe same mould. And though (Desire to know) did carry mee in youth far from home, and that into Countries, both beyond the Seas, and Mountaynes also, yet haue not those ayres any whit, altered my loue from my naturall Countrey.

Vincent.

That so beeinge (as vpon your worde, I will now beleue it is) I will trust the rather to your talke, and thinke that, what you doo answere to my demaundes, is in troth, that your selfe doth faithfully follow.

Vallentine.

I pray you (Maister Vincent) lay by these curtesies, and fall to the matter of your demaundes. For mee thinkes, (though you would be called a playne man) yet you vse more ceremony, then I, that haue spent some parte of my life in Countries, where those customes are most plentiful.

Vincent.

Well, then I will holde you no longer in these complaintes, (which wordes I learne of you travellers.) But fall into the matter it selfe.

Vallentine.

Indeed Sir, that is my desire, & sith it seemeth, that the subiect of your speech shalbe in comparing of our countrey customs, with those of forrain na-

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cions, I hope you will hold mee blameles, (though occasion beeinge offered) I happen to finde faulte with somewhat of our owne, and commend the customes of others: which I will doo the more boldly, because you tolde mee, you loued plainenes, and therfore bee content, our talke may bee free speech, and without respect.

Vincenr.

On Gods name, so let vs proceede, and (as I promised) least our talke should extend too farre, I will neither aske your opinion of all customes, nor of all sortes of men: but onely desire to be resolu'd of one doubt, in one thing, which toucheth mee only, and others of my degree and condition.

Vallentine.

And I pray you Sir, what may that bee?

Vincenr.

You know the ble and auncient custome of this Realme of England was, that all Noble men and Gentlemen, (not called to attendance in our Princes seruice) did continually inhabite the countreyes, continuing there, from age to age, and from Duncester, to auncester, a continuall house, and hospitallitie, which got them great loue amonge their Neighbour, releued many poore wretches, and wrought also diuerse other good effectes, as hereafter I will tell you.

Vallentine.

In deede Sir, I will not denie, that the Countreye is holsome, to gaine the loue of neighbz is very good, and to releue the poore is an acte of much charity: But to what end speake you this, for to your well liking of these matters, every man will assent.

Vincenr.

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Vincent.

I wish to God, they would: but I see, that Gentlemen begin to take another course, & fallinge from the vse of their Ancestors, doo now eyther altogeather (or very much) leaue to dwell in their Country houses, inhabitinge Citties, and great Townes, which manner of liuing, I cannot allow, Though it bee (as I heare) vsed in forraine Countreys. And because you haue seene both fashions, my desire is (as a man of experience in both) you will faithfully informe mee, which of these orders of liuing you like best.

Vallentine.

Oh Sir, now at length you are come to the matter, which (as I conceaue) is nothinge els, but that you woulde know whither it were best that gentlemen, should inhabite (as they did aunciently) their owne houses in the Country, or the Citties, as in many forraine nations the custome is.

Vincent.

In troth, that is the somme and whole effecte of my demaund, and nothinge els I will for this time desire to know your opinion of, vntill occasion of our speech shall so require.

Vallentine.

For my opinion herein (thought it bee of small authority) such as it is I will tell you plainly, yet (as it seemeth by your former speech) it will dissent with yours. For as you commend the continuall habitation of the country, so do I vtterly disallow therof, as a custome, neither good for the common welth, neither for the gentils that do vse it: which you shall perceaue playnly, if it please you to com-

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pare the commodities with the discommodities, of either: the good, with the bad, which is in either: the profit with the disprofit, which is in either: the quiet, and disquiet which is in either. And the securitie, with the hazard that is in either: all which (without priuate Passion) well wated, will easely lead you to the troth: But first, because you affect the country life. I pray you commend it perticulerly, the best you may, and give mee leaue to remember you with the discommodities therof, least you growe ouer satysfied with feedinge vpon your owne affection. When it commeth to my lot to speake of my liking, you shall without offence, bee as bold with mee.

Vincent.

With all good will (Maister Vallentine,) But I pray you marke well what I say, and forget (duringe my discourse) the perticuler loue you bare to some Italian or Spanish Lady, during your abode, on that side: Least that priuate Passion doth make your likinge to their customes so delicate, as you loath our owne country quiet, and comoditie.

Vallentine.

Day Sir, you shall not neede to doubt any such parcialitie, for it is long sithence I was there: and besides that, my blood is now ouer colde to kindle any such fier. And therefore to our purpose.

Vincent.

Then I pray you vnderstand, that I remayne of the auncient minde of our English Gentlemen, who euer, euen to this day (or very lately) did thinke the country habitation best, as a life and education most honest, most pleasant, and most profitable.

Vallentine

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Vallentine.

I like the diuision very wel: in any wise, proceed
in that order.

Vincent.

I haue euer, and euer will account, that educati-
on, & life most honest, which is nourished in iustice,
trust, and plaine dealinge, free from fraude, and
dissimulatio: things (as I thinke) little vled among
vs plaine men of the Country: And first to speake
of education. of our Children, wee acquaint them
not with any crafty company: wee clad them simply
to eschue pride: wee feede them grosely, to harden
their bodies: and wee teache them Schoole lear-
ning, to know good from bad: other qualitties in
their child hood, wee commonly doo. not giue them,
as things which are either hurtful or superfluous:
being growen to riper age, wee sende them to the
Vniuersitie, where many become so learned, as
they gaine by learning their owne liuing: or if not,
yet such taste of learninge, as they are the better.
Some also wee bring vp in the Innes of Court, where
if they profite, wee suffer them to proceede: if not,
speedely reuoke them from thence, least they ac-
quaint themselves to much, with the licentious
customes of the Cittie: as with quarreling, dycing,
dauncing, deceking, lustinge, brauing, & indetting.
To teach them these, there wanteth not in euery
sreate instructors ynow. Wee therefore holde it
best, not to hazard our children abroad from our
houses, vnlesse it bee in these places of order, and
there also suffer them not to continue, vnlesse wee
see their disposition to learning. To serue in Court,
or follow the war, wee account those liues rather
leude,

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sewde, then laudable : these trades are commonly hard, and their hazard greater, then wee (beeinge borne to wealth, and worship) will put our Babes vnto: In conclusion, our care in educatiō of children is such, as wee study cheefly to make them honest and lust, wise and welthy, obedient and assured. Which commodities, others that haunt the Court the Cittie, the Warre, and the world : either they want, or with great hap, or hazard they haue the. Thus much I thinke shall suffice, to enforne you of our education, I thinke you partly know it, els I would speake at more large : How do you allow therof tell mee playnely : And then I will speake of our lynes, and how honestly wee liue. For that was my promise.

Valentine.

I allowe of your zeale to honesty in education, but if you mixe it with some other thinges, I will like it the better. That you study to bring vp your children in honesty, which is vertue, and cheefely iustice (for of that vertue men bee called good) I doo not onely allow you, but commend you : Yet if you remember what Tully telleth you, (for sure I am you haue bin a Scholler That men are not only borne to themselues : Then will you ad some other vertues and knowledges to these, you wish to bee in your children, for besides, that all men are not apt for one thinge, yet is it commendable, nay rather necessary, that there bee persons prepared for sundry actions, not so much to serue their owne turnes, as their Prince and Countrey : Respectes of more importaunce, then the safety of any private Gentleman, either his person, his patrimony, or his

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his Parēts. For as you said the sum of your intent, was to frame your childrē to be honest, & iust: wise, & welthy: obedient and assured. All which things I allow, as laudable, beeing not misunderstood. And first, touching honesty & iustice, I accompt them as one: for indeed, an honest man, is a iust man: & a iust man is honest: & that is hee that lieth iustly & honestly, in respect of loue to honesty & iustice: and not hee that is iust, either for feare, or for lacke of skil, to be worse: for vertue is a volūtary, & knowing good habite: Therefore if your Sonne be honest & iuste, either for feare of punishment, or for ignorance, because he knoweth not how to bee vniust, or false, I assent not vnto you, for then, he may be rather called a good, honest, iust foole, then an honest, or iust wise man: Touching the next, which are to be wise and welthy, to put these two into one, it may happen to proue that they concurre, though most commonly I haue seene few wise men welthy: not because welth shunneth wisdoine: but rather, because wisdoine seldome seeketh after welth. Yet in your sence (I suppose) it may stand well: for you accompt no man wise, but those that bee welthy: and I doo also assent vnto you, so that you are contente to meane sufficient wealth: but to seeke after priuate goods, omittinge all publique action, and priuate contemplation, I holde not that man wise, for hee shall do (as Marcus the Emperour sayd of Merchants:) Labour and liue miserably, to die rich: To the thirde of your endes, wherunto the education of your children tended, which is obedience with safety: surely, for the first there is no nation, no,

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scantly the most barbarous, but wit commend obedience, & therein rest you firme: but what you mean by safety I doo not so well knowe, but for ought I conceiue, it is the eschuing of perill & paynes, which beeing your intent (as it seemeth it is) I can by no meanes assent vnto you. For if you consider wel (as mens bodiees be diuerse,) so are their mindes & inclinations diuerse: every one is not disposed to one thing, nor to one actiō, & therefore whē you disallow of allsorts of learning & action, but of those that be for gayne and reward, I accompt your iudgement reproouable. I wish therefore cleanecōtrary to your minde, that in respect of the common wealth, & the seruice therof, (wherunto we are all bound, yea the best of vs all) that such younge Gentilmen as are not inclined to learning, should by their Parentes, bee not only suffered, and encouraged, but also to their powers enhabled, to trauaile countreyes, & haunt & warres. In which trades of life although touchinge their persons, there bee greater perrill then in study at home: yet sith the common weale may not wante such men, and those knowledges not gotten without perrill. I iudge it a lesse euill to hazard mens bodiees in them (though many perish) then vtterly to want them, and haue our children safe at home. Euery man by nature is condemned to die, & better it is to aduenture an honest death, then to continue an improfitable life: To answere the rest of your speech, that in warre, in Court, and Cittie, is great store of euill company: Thereto I say there is also many good: Therefore good counsaile of freends, & honest discretion of young men, may learne them to make choise: Besides that it
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is good, to know euill, not to vse it, but to auoyd it, and for the most part, things are indifferant, and not perfit. Besides vertue, there is nothing in perfection good, nor besides vice, nothing in perfection euill. Therfore though your childe must needes knowe some euill, in learning good, yet is it better hee knowe it, with some hazard, then want his good for feare of that hazard. If no man would approch the fier, because it hath burned many a house, and many a heedlesse man, also, that haue fallen into it, then would many a one, freeze to death: & though the Sea, hath drowned many thousands, yet no wisdome would that sayling should bee forbidden, for (as erst I sayd) in euery thing excepting vertue, is commodity and discommodity, & when the good doth or may surpasse the bad, no man doth (or at the least ought) shun the aduenture, where good is the marke, and the end honest. Vincent.

In good faith Sir, you haue spoken more, then euer I did heretofore consider: for in deede, when I bethinke mee of your discourse, I remēber how diuersely my pooze children are in nature affected, some of the are of the selues very bookish, others for none entisement, or compulsion can be brought to learn, so as (I suppose) you say truly, & if I durst hazard their persons, & suffer them to try their fortune abroad, they might attaine to sunwhat. And Fortune (as some Clerkes say) is very freendly to folke aduenturous. Vallentine.

Well, I am glad, my speech hat h drawen you to consideration, of any good thing, before either vnthought of, or forgottē. But I am sure you take my mening, as it is, to remēber you, & not to cosicel you.

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Vincent.

Sir, I thanke you, that you yeeld mee that honoꝛ, to say so: this proceedeth of your fauour. But I must confesse troth, that I neuer cast my minde so far from home. And I therby conceiue that a common wealth, hath occasion aswell to employ men expert in warre, as others learned in lawes, though of these wee haue most vse.

Vallentine.

Yea Sir, therof assure your selfe, and in some Countreyes where God hath suffered vnquietnes, there is more want of good Capitaynes, then learned Doctors: yea in such estate hath our Country beene, and may bee: for nothing is assured, but besides Warriours, Princes haue occasion to employ many other Gentlemen of experience. For I can accompt vnto you sundry honest qualities that are very comendable in men, and necessary for the state.

Vincent.

I sayne would I bee enformed of all. But first let mee intreat you, to tell what are, or ought to bee, the cheefe professions of a Gentleman.

Vallentine.

That can I doo, and in few wordes.

Vincent.

So much the better, for my memory shall the more easely beare them away, therfore without more request. I pray you proceede.

Vallentine.

The cheefe and onely professions, wherby a Gentleman should receaue aduancement, or commendacion, are Armes, and Learninge. For in these

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these two onely should hee exercise him selfe.

Vincent.

Surely Sir, they seeme to bee noble quallities, but I thinke hard to excel in them. But is not Husbandry, Tillage, Grasinge, Marchandize, buying and selling, with such other trades (as wee Country men vse) thinges meete for a Gentleman?

Vallentine.

In plaine speeche I tell you, that I thinke not one of them fit for a gentlemans exercise.

Vincent.

And why so? are they not commonly vsed of Gentlemen? and by them they doo receaue daily profit: the lawes doo allowe of them as thinges commendable. Also by them many poore yonger Bretheren without lande (as commonly they are all) doo by the plough, maintayne him selfe, his wife and family.

Vallentine.

A poore maintenance, and a slow thrifte, God knoweth, and full euill it becommeth the person of a Gentleman to practise any of these trades.

Vincent.

Then I pray you tell mee how many wayes a man, without land, may gayne his lyuinge Gentlemanlike.

Vallentine.

There are three wayes to doo it.

Vincent.

And which are they, I pray you informe mee?

Vallentine.

There is Arte, Industry, and Seruice.

Vincent.

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Vincent.

What you meane by euery of these, I pray you let mee know, for I am bozne, I thanke God to some reuenues of mine owne, and therefore haue litle studied to attaine to any thinge, saue that my lotte hath brought mee vnto.

Vallentine.

The better is your fortune, that haue by successi-
on only, the whole fruite of all your auncestors tra-
uaille.

Vincent.

Euen so it is in deed, I thanke God & them for
it : But I pray you answere to that I aske you.

Vallentine.

Such Artes as I with a Gentleman shold
learne, must be those that commonly are called Ly-
berall Sciences. Which and how many there bee of
them, you may easely know, yea and to what pur-
pose they serue.

Vincent.

But tell mee, are not the lawes a study very fit
for a Gentleman?

Vallentine.

Yes surely, both the lawes Ciuill & Common are
Studies most excellent, & to speake breefely, all lear-
nings, that tend to action in the state either Ciuill,
or Martiall.

Vincent.

Now you seeme to talke of great misteries, but
wee gentlemen in the Country, vnlesse our sonnes
proceed in the study of the comon lawes, Diuinitie,
or Phisicke, doo holde them learned ynough if they
can wyte and read English, and congrue Latine.

Vallentine.

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

Vallentine.

If your sonne wade no deeper in learning, better bntaught at all. And I am of this minde, & these common Schooles (wherof in England are many) that receaue all sortes of children to bee taught, bee their Parents neuer so poore, and the Boyes neuer so vnapt, Doo often times rather harne the good, because there they continue so long, as a good misterie or occupation might haue bin learned. For as I say, vnles the childe be apt for learning, and his freendes resolute in holdinge him to it, the thinge were better vnattempted.

Vincent.

Now (Maister Vallentine,) you seeme to speake straungly, as though VVrighting, Reading, and the Lattin tongue, were nothing worth.

Vallentine:

Sir, I do not so say, but to gaine a lyuing by the without further learninge, I thinke it hard. And therefore poore men that put so many vnapte children to the Schole, do nothing els, but offer them losse of time: For do you not meete many beggers that can doo all these, and yet you see their estate is plaine beggery?

Vincent.

That is true in Deede, but yet if they bee honest and personable, they are the fitter to become Seruants to attend vpon a Noble or Worshipful man.

Vallentine.

I am glad you haue remembred mee of seruing men, for hereafter I will tel you more of my minde touching them, in the meane time, these quallities beeing of no necessity, will litle amend their enterainment, and their certenty nothing.

Vincent.

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

Vincent.

Well, I doo now conceaue, what learninge you thinke meete for a Gentleman, and that for poore children (vnlesse they proceede to some perfection in learning) they were better vntaught: & in troth to haue a good occupacion, I thinke is a sure trade to take vnto, then bare wrighting and reading.

Vallentine.

Touching Industry, I wish that young Gentlemen (hauing no arte) should sundry wayes, yea, euery wayes honest, try their fortune.

Vincent.

And how I pray you: for of my credite (if I had no reuenues of mine owne,) I could not tell, how to gaine a groat.

Vallentine.

Yet do not you see many yonger Bretheren, that euen in foraine Countreyes, haue aspired to great pensions: others haue happened vpon good Marriages, others for some notable, and egregious act, haue attained both profit and honour. whē others for very sloth or cowardise do liue at home, almost in beggery. Did not they better that did aduenture them selues?

Vincent.

Yes indeede, but there are few, whom fortune so wel fauoureth, and in attempting these matters many doo miscarry.

Vallentine.

No doubt of that, els their reward ought not to bee so great, for things easy, without hazard, euery blockhead doth take in hand, and yet to incourage young men, aswell in Industry, as Arte, I pray you consider

Cynile and vnciuile life.

9

consider how fewe of infinite numbers doo prooue
learned in the Vniuersities: how fewe Apprentices
doo proue rich Marchaunts: and how fewe Law
Students become Judges: And then shall you
finde the number of industrious men that thrive,
is like to the rest.

Vincent.

If I were sure, my Sonne should attaine to that
good hap you speake of, (and that some perhaps,
haue aspired vnto.) Then could I bee content, hee
should hazard him selfe: but I finde the Daungers
many, & the hope so litle, as I hold better to keepe
him at home in the state of a poore yonger brother,
then see him seeke a good, so desperate.

Vallentine.

The more vntwise you, and by so sayinge you dis-
couer the basenes of your minde, your small iudge-
ment and lesse experience: for if you had seene the
Courtes of Princes, or the warres: you shal finde
in euery of them, not only many young Gentlemen
of your condition: But also many your betters, the
Sonnnes of Knightes, Barrons, Earles, Dukes, and
Princes, & many of them, as ready to hazarde their
liues, for their honour & Country, as the poorest
or proudest Souldier. Do you then take scoorne
that your Sonne should submit him selfe to that
perrill, that these Princes doo aduenture: And if
you consider how many, euē of base name & birth,
through industry only, without arte, haue not only
gayned them selues, goods and glory: but also
therby haue giuen honour to all their Posterity, I
suppose you would not onely aduenture your yon-
ger Sonne, but my young Maister, your heir also.

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Cyuite and vnciuile life.

yea (rather then faile) your owne person. For had your first Ancestors beene no more industrious then you seeme, surely your name and howie, had not had that worship and wealth it hath. These reasons may, mee thinke moue you to hope well of industry: But to confirme you, I will resite the names of some few, whose industry hath not only gained them selues glory, but also their Countrey infinite good. How say you to Columbus, and Vesputius, whose industry discovered the west part of the world: from whence the King of Spaine fetcheth yearly great Treasure: Also what do you thinke of Magelanus, that sailed about the world: yea to come nearer to your knowledge, do you not thinke that Maister Frobuscher, by his industry, and late frauade, shall profit his Countrey, and honour himselfe: Yes surely, and a number of others, who though they haue not perfourmed so notable matters, yet haue they wonne them selues reputation, and meane to liue, some more, and some lesse, according to their vertue and fortune.

Vincent.

In good faith, you haue spoken very reasonably, I will no more bee so lothe to let my children goe seeke their aduenture. Nowe tell mee somewhat of seruice, for (as I remember) that was the third way to aduancement.

Vallentine.

In troth, I so saide, and so I meane. Seruice, I say, hath aduanced many, and daily doth, it can not much differ from industry, saving that it hath somewhat a straighter rule: but desire of honor in the couragious, and necessity in the poore, doth diue

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

10

Drive them to refuse none aduenture : Those young Gentlemen therefore, who finde them selues of minde capable, & of body disposed, I wish them to haunt the warre, wherein though the paines bee greates, and the perill much, yet it entertaineth the life, and in time yeeldeth honour: it is the common custome of Fraunce and other Countries, that young gentlemen bee brought vp, as Pages in Court: so soone, as their Pagery is past, they become Souldiers in some Band or Garriso, where (after knowledge and prooffe) they become Officers; from Officers, Captaines of companies, and many of them gouernours of Townes, Coronels, and Chieftaynes. Is not this a better course for younge Gentlemen then tarry at home in their Fathers or Brothers house, and kepe a Sparhawke, or a kennell of bawling Dogges, or that (which in mine opinion, is as bad :) Marry him selfe with some poore Mayden, and through charge of Children, become a very farmer, or Ploughman, which thinges though they bee honest and fit for some men, yet for a Gentleman vtterly vnmeet.

Vincent.

I am halfe of your minde, but this Realme hath seldome warres, and few Garrisons, where wee should resort to learne, and lesse meanes to employ or entertaine such young men, as are apt & willing to serue.

Vallentine.

It is true, & yet are there more occasions to call the to it, then they take, & more meane to entertayne the, then (for ought I see) men of minde to descerne

Do

them,

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

them, and were our nation so desirous of honour, and their owne good, as some others are, there would neuer bee lesse, then two or three hundred young Gentlemen wandring the world abroade, & seeking aduentures: yea, I suppose, wee English Gentlemen haue so heretofore vled & matter: how could els, Iohannes Acutus, an English man haue kept that sir in Italy that hee did: who (as Iouius, and other Cronackes say) led 5000. English voluntary Souldiers, and during the contētions betweene Guelphs and Gibellins, did many seruices & exploits very memorably.

Vincent.

But I pray you, are there no other wayes for Gentlemens preferment, then the exercise of war?

Vallentine.

Yes Sir, els God forbid: for I would haue no man (cheefely poore men) to accompt that the war is their occupation: But rather how to serue at occasions, and the seruice done, quietly to retier themselves to their owne houses, Maisters, freends, or other industry, not dooing as I se many lusty young Souldiers do, beg in the streets, when with a little paines they could get them selues a way to liue.

Vincent.

But what shall the young Gentlemen souldiers doo, for (I thinke you know,) they haue no handy craft to tie vnto?

Vallentine.

That I know well, neither would I wish them to meddle with any Mecanycall manner of liuinge, as a thing vtterly vnfit for Gentlemen. And therefore I will say & sith the number of those souldiers is

Cyuite and vncyuite life.

is small, in respect of ~~the~~ other multitude, they might easily bee (or the greater part of them) recreated into Garrilons, and into the service of Noblemen, and others their good freendes, who knowinge them vertuous, would bee glad of their service, nay rather their company.

Vincent.

In deede the number of Gentlemen, that follobo the war, is nothings, in respect, of the multitude: and therefore either service, their owne industry, freends, or fortune may, (as you say continually) holde them in hart, and ability to liue.

Vallentine.

Doubt you not therof, specially, if they be honestly and thriftely enclined: for some I haue seene so careles, as they neuer forecast what want may follobo. But finding them selues plentifully applied, do spend as much in one yeare, as fortune & freends haue gayned in many: therefore to prouide for them I meane not.

Vincent.

Yet one question more, touching service: Are there not other seruices besides the warre, fit for a Gentleman, wherby hee may bee maintained or happily aduanced?

Vallentine.

Else the world were harde, though the warre ought to occupy the greatest number. For (if you forget not) I told you long since, that the profession of a Gentleman might bee either Armes or Learning: wherof, if hee hath any taste, with some wisdom and experience, he may not only serue in the house and affaires of Noblemen, and Officers, but also

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Cyuite and vnciuile life.

the Prince himselfe yet if his learning be not in perfection, or excellent in some liberal science, or lawes, I would wish hee added therunto Industry. In conclusion, what gentleman so ever hath in him either by nature or nurture any vertue singularity, or industrious knowledge, cannot want place either Martiall or Ciuill, either in his owne native Countrey, or els where. And though perhaps you see many in Court euen by mere flattery, yea, some almost with the, win more wealth & worship, then many others, yet assure your selfe that vertue is the true way vnto them: & what occasion of seruice doth happen, men of value & vertue bee those that shall stand their country in steede, and honor them selues.

Vincen.

Yet tell mee I pray you, which are the meanes, to enter into the course and order, to bee aduanced to some good, either Martiall or Ciuill, as you terme them.

Vallentine.

And that will I exactly tell you, let him that affecteth the warre, apply him self to serue, or follow some Noble man, or expert Captain, that is either in continuall seruice Martially, or that is likely to bee vsed at occasion, for most commonly wee loue those, and desire their good, whose studies and inclinations bee like vnto our owne. And such as fynd theselues disposed to lerning, or any ciuil function, let the follow or serue those learned or wise persons, to whom the state hath geuen those authorities and trust.

V. ncent.

Truly

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

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Truly you tell mee a way very likely, & reasonable, for at such tyme as the laste warre was in Fraunce, I meane at Newhauen, (where as you know who was the Generall,) I hard him commend the courage, and conducte, not onely of principall Captaynes, and Gentlemen, but euen of private Souldiers: yea many yeares, sithens that tyme, you shal yet vpon small occasion heare the like at his hand, as though their dooings, and the mennes names were written in the middest of his memory.

Valentine.

Well, now I perceaue you vnderstand me, and as this Noble man did, and doth honor men of his professio, so doubt you not, but likewise will others. And yet to acquite your tale, I remember, I haue heard him tell more then once, of one poore Souldier, who in rescuing, or reuenginge an other English man, assayled by two Almaynes with their slaugh Swordes, slew them both with his owne hand, euen in his sight, which both wee, and euery man must say, was a part of a couragious Souldiour, and the General often speaking therof a signe, hee honored his desert, and desired his aduancement.

Vincent.

But I pray you, is this the manner of other great men, to honour those that serue vnder them in their profession? I aske of you, because you liue in Courte, where are great personages, both in the knowledge of Armes and learning:

Valentine.

Yea surely, though I cannot so perticularly name
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Cyuite and vnciuile life.

the matters: yet many Gentlemen there bee so studious and painefull, as both in Ciuill & Martiall affaires are very expert, and you shall heare great men that can iudge, much commend them, yea to the Prince, by whose bounty all sortes of vertuous men are aduanced.

Vincent.

I begin to rest satisfied, touching education: and am perswaded, (and so will perswade with other Gentlemen my freends) that they shall aduenture their Sonnes, more then the olde custome was, sith either by their aduenture, they shall liue and become vertuous, or (as wee Englishmen call it) of good qualities, or else die honestly in seekinge to make them selues fit for the Princes service, and their owne reputation.

Vallentine.

I am very glad that my poore reasons haue taken good effect, but therein I wil challenge no more to my selfe, then I deserue: which is, that I haue put you in minde of that you either forgot, or els for want of leysure) neuer considered: For I acknowledge you of much more wisdom and iudgement then I am. Doth it please you to commaund mee any further service?

Vincent.

You will neuer leaue your Ceremonies (Maister Vallentine,) I know you are more wiser, and more expert then I am: but your naturall curtesy and modesty, doth moue you to yeeld more respect then is due vnto mee, I thanke you for it, and loth I am to seeme tedious, els I entreat you to hold your promise: that is, to heare mee tell of our countrey commodities

Cyuiile and vnciuile life.

13

cominodities & the content wherin we liue there:
For though I now peeelde, that the education of
Gentlemen is best abroad, yet mee thinkes their
continuall habitation should bee best in the Coun-
try at home.

Vallentine.

I hope you will not euer dwell in that opinion:
but I pray you begin to tell of your Countrey de-
lightes, and what is your manner of liuinge. I
will with all my hart, both patiently heare you, and
boldly (as you gaue leaue) tell you my minde, how
I allow of your reasons.

Vincent.

I say then, that our Countrey habitation is more
godly, more honorable, more hole some, more quiet,
more pleasant, and profitable, then it can be in any
Cittie or Burrough.

Vallentine.

Surely Sir, you haue spoken of great respects,
why you should loue the Countrey dwellinge, and
though I will beleue that the thing is (as you say)
yet sith wee are in dispute of the matter, you must
giue mee leaue to demand either reasons or de-
monstracions, why indeed it is so.

Vincent.

I will proceede, as orderly as I can, and make
prooffe (as I hope) of all my speeche, & first because
I alleadged, that our Countrey liues, (I speake
without comparison) was more godly, then the life
of the Cittie: That opinion I conceaue, because I
finde there, much loue & charity, which as I take
it, are two speciall markes of godlines, and seldom
found in Citties, where euery man almost, lyueth

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Cyuite and vnciuile life.

To him selfe: For whereas Neighbours doo meeete
often without cereimony, chearing, and conuersing
one with an other, without disdayne, or enuie, (as
wee do in the Countrey,) there I iudge is loue, and
good neighbourhood: Likewise where hospitali-
tie is liberally kept, and many Children and Ser-
uauntes daily fed; with all other commers: there
(as I also thinke) is much charitie: in the Towne
it seemeth the contrary, there is no meetinge of
x neighbours, without special conuitation, no saluta-
tion, without much respect, & cereimony, no number
of Seruauntes, but those that for necessary vses
are imployable. So as in brieffe, there seemeth
to bee little loue amonge equals, and lesse liberali-
ty to inferiours: Wherupon I inferre, that in Cit-
ties and Townes, is lesse plenty of both these pro-
perties: (I meane loue and charity,) then is with
vs in the Countrey. How say you (M. Vallentine),
hane I spoken well or no?

Vallentine.

You speake ever exceeding well, yet I pray you
with patience, heare what may be sayd to the con-
trary. It seemeth that ceremonies of ciuility, doth
make you doubt of loue among town inhabitants,
and so consequently there wanteth some parte of
that good; good will you finde, or imagine to be in
the Countrey. Truly Sir, if you were as well ac-
quainted in any Cittie, as you are in the Shier,
where you abide: you should finde the same affec-
tion among men, that there are, some more & some
lesse of acquaintance and freendship amongst these
men, as they bee more or lesse a kinne, allied, or of con-

Cyuite and vncyuite life.

conformitie, or disformitie in disposition. For there are febe men so vniuersally curteous or kinde, as make account of all men alike (which so beeinge) bringeth mee to beleue, that when good freendes are disposed to meete, it is better to bee eyther invited, or occasioned, then (as they doo in the Countrey) hand ouer head resort to a gentlemans house, where (because the Maister doth not make choice of his guesstes, sometimes very straungers do there meete, yea, other whiles meare enenies, which (as you can conceaue) must needes marre all the mirth. And if any of these guesstes doo happen to receaue lesse curtesy, or entertainment then the other, hee falleth forthwith into offence or ielously agaynst the Maister of the house, and holde him more then halfe his foe. Which displeasure could not happen, if no man would resorte thither vnbidden. Besides that, (if you marke it well) when a knot of good and famplier freendes bee met, to make merry, and talke, (as true freendes often doo) merrily, and liberally: if but one extraordinary man (none of this troupe) doth hap to come in) you shall finde all the mirth marred, and their free speeche conuerted to respecte, yea, (shall I tell all) that guesste vnlooked for, maketh one to many: for the number of lodgings. And so the Maister of the house, is driuen eyther to forsake his owne head, or discharge his vnbidden guest.

Vincent.

It is true that you say, that these vnacquainted guesstes do occasion alteration of cheare, and I my selfe in my poore house, haue diuerse times beene

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

So haunted with guests, as I was driven out of mine owne bed, to lye at some Tennants house of mine, for a night or two: Notwithstanding, I toke it for no great trouble, so long as my freends found themselves content and welcome.

Vallentine.

But Sir, are you sure they were all your freendes?

Vincent.

Yea surely, I so thinke, though some of them I had neuer seene before that day.

Vallentine.

Doo you not thinke you haue as true freendes as any of these haunt feastes, that dwell far from you, or that do visite you at their occasions, or your owne conuitation?

Vincent.

Yes truly, and my trouble the lesse, if wee were lesse haunted, but the Country custome is, to bid every man welcome, and the more resort he hath, the more is the Master of the house honored, and the more authority a Gentleman hath in the Shier, the more is the resort vnto him.

Vallentine.

Merely, I so thinke, for as his true freends do seeke him for loue and honour, so are there others that do it for flattery or feare: Thus you see how easely you may bee deceaued in the loue of your Neighboures, and that haunting your house, may bee for other cause or occasion, as well as loue.

Vincent.

Sir, it may so bee right well, but yet you can say little agaynst mee, touching our liberalitie and
charitie,

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

charity, which wee vse in the Country, keepinge our gates open for all men, and feeding many tall fellowes to attend vpon vs: also relyuing all Beggars, that aske at our gates, with money, meat, or bothe.

Vallentine.

I am loth to speak against these customes, because they are the cheefe commendacions of the Country: and yet, sith I haue already my pardon and lycence to say what I lust, against you, let mee aske what sortes of men, doo enter commonly within your gates, which (as you say) are neuer shut?

Vincent.

There doo resort vnto vs of all sortes, I meane Noble men, Gentlemen, Yeomen, our Neighbors, & many others, that either haue occasion to come thither for busines, or passe that way for their owne affaires or pleasures.

Vallentine.

These mennes presence in your houses, do rather honor you, the shew that therby you be charitable. But what bee these tall fellowes of whom you speake?

Vincent.

They bee our seruingmen, that attend vpon our Table, and follow vs in the streetes, when wee bee at London, or any other great Towne, and furnish our Halles at home.

Vallentine.

But I pray you, haue they no other quallities, wherin to serue you, or doo you vse them, for no other purpose, then attend on your Table, or follow you as shadowes,

¶ iii

Vincent.

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

Vincent.

Surely no, neither is it the manner to offer them any labour or drudgery, for therof they would take great scozne, beeing cunly personages, & commonly the sonnes of some honest Yeomen, or farmers of the Countrey.

Vallentine.

Then can I compare them to Monckes, and fat Friers, who vnder pretence of prayer, wanne themselves a lasie life, and liued vpon others laboure: So these men, beeing called men of seruice, do nothing lesse then serue: I doo not therfore accompte you charitable in feeding of such idle folke: for that is sayd to bee spent, or geuen charitably, which is bestowed on beggers, the blinde, and lame, and such like: but not on these sturdy fellowes, & needles seruantes.

Vincent.

Doo you so say Sir: were it for the worship of a Gentleman, hauing good lande and reuenues to keepe no more seruantes, then (as they doo in Cities) those that for their necessary vses they must needes employ: If wee Gentlemen should so doo, how should wee furnish our Halles: how should wee bee ready for quarrellers: or how should our Wiues bee wayted on when they ride a broade, as commonly their custome is, cheefely in Sommer, the faire season and hunting time:

Vallentine.

In good sooth, you haue now sayd much, but nothing to purpose, for though it hath been a custome to keepe these needlesse men, yet the custome being not good, or not profitable, it ought to be banished.

Among

Cyule and vnciuile life.

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Among the lubberly Monckes, and fat headed Friers, your Halles will best shew their good proportion, when they be not ouer ful: your quarrels would be perfourmed, with your owne persons, and your wiues (becinge well bled) should bee no common huntresse, nor gadders abroad, though I deeme not, such hath bin the vse that Ladies, and gentlewomen, (euen in their Husbandes absence) should ride a hawking, or huntinge.

Vincent.

If this custome of keeping great numbers of seruingmen had not beene good, and cominendable, how happeneth it, that neither lawes hath forbid- den it, nor experience hath not disprooued it?

Vallentine.

I will tell you how (in mine opinion,) this combersome and vnprofitable custome came, which in deede (as I thinke) at the first was very necessary, but now cleane contrary.

Vincent.

How can a thing bee good once, and after proue euill, cheefely a custome so long bled?

Vallentine.

Yes surely Sir, and you see many lawes or statutes made with good consent, and vpon iust occasion, which afterwardes become either so vnprofitable, or so seuiere, as by like consent they be annulled, as you your self, (euen in your owne age) might haue marked: Likewise would customes which become vnprofitable, or vnfit for þe comon welth be v- sed. And touching our matter of many idle seruants I thinke, þe at such tyme, as this Realm was deu- ded into sundry principalities, & þe therby cōtinuall
quarrell

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

quarrel and discord grew among the Princes, and their sundry subiectes of necessity the Noble men, and Gentlemen were forced to keepe the greatest number of Seruauntes they were able: Not for the purposes you alleadge, but rather (as a Gard) to defend them from the fury of their enemies: either els this custome began in y^e time of the great ciuill warres, which continued many yeares, and was (as you know) called the Barrons warre. In these times, it was not onely not folly, but rather great wisdom to haue numbers of seruauntes, and followers, though with charge, to attend vpon Gentlemen for their defence: but had they liued in continuall quiet, free from ciuill discention, I suppose, they would not haue continued those Garrisons for their bayne glory, or their senceles ambition, (as I may call it.)

Vincent.

In good earnest, you speake reasonably.

Vallentine.

Yea Sir, I can bringe one other matter to your mind, wherof you may rather gather, y^e this peaceable Realme, hath been in times heretofore greatly trauelled, and the Nobility in much perrill: for if you consider wel the sights, & manner of their most auncient houses, you shall finde they were all (for the most part) either Castelles or houses trenched, or walled about: as buildings, made rather for defence, then other respect, either of plesure or profite. Wherfore seeinge they did choose an habitation for strength and defence, it is very like they also accompanied them selues, as strongly as they were able. And I dare warrant you that in those dayes,

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

17

Dayes, though they did (as wee do) entertaine many seruaunts, yet was their consideration diuerse from ours. For as wee regarde cheefely the comelines of the person, so did they study to take them that were expert in the warre, and weapon of that age: as Pikes, Bowes, Swordes, and sheeldes (for shot, I gesse, they vsed not.) Also they made choice (as I likewise suppose) of men that were hardy and strong, because, (hauinge litle, or no vse of Artillary or small shot,) the cheefe seruice consisted vpon force: both in defence of their Castels or houses, and also in the feelde fight.

Vincent.

All this while (I confesse) you reason very probably: but now (thanks to god, and good gouernment) wee haue no neede, as they had, and yet haue we as good reuenues or more then the noble or Gentlemen of those ages, and enioy them more quietly: why should wee not then keepe them still, to attend vpon vs for our honour & worship? And they are not altogether so vnquallified, or idle, as you are perswaded.

Valentine.

Then I pray you, enforce mee further of their vertues or qualities, sith I haue plainly tolde you, for what cause the custome of Seruingmen began, and of what condicion they were.

Vincent.

Among our Yeomen, you shal finde some (yea very many) wel brought vp, and expert in sundry seemingly, and necessary knowledges, without which they cannot (as they doo) serue a noble man, or gentleman: and not to holde you in longer expectation
what

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x what they are. You shall know that our seruingsmen, besides that they al, (or the greatest number) can well and decently weare their garments, and cheefely their hyery coates, their swordes & bucklers, they can also carue very cumly at your table, as to vnase a Conny, to raise a Capon, troupe a Crane, and so likewise handle all other dishes, and meates that are set on the board before you: some of them also can wrestle, leape well, run & daunce. There are also of those; that can shoote in longe Bowes, crosse Bowes, or handgunne: Pea there wanteth not some that are both so wise, and of so good audacitie, as they can, and doo (for lacke of better company) entertaine their Maister with table talke, bee it is pleasure to speake either of Hokes, or houndes, fishing, or fowling, sowing or grassinge, ditchinge or hedginge, the dearth or cheapenes of grayne, or any such matters, wherof Gentlemen commonly speake in the Country: bee it either of pleasure or profit, these good fellowes knowe somewhat in all.

Vallentine.

Merely syr, you haue told mee newes, I would faine knowe more of these men, and of their feates, I will no more say bertnes, for that shels to much of beyond seas.

Vincent.

If you knew, what honour or worship these can doo, to a Noble man in his Countrey house, you would rather giue a good seruingman fortie pounds wages, then want his seruice some one day: I meane, eyther when you haue store of straungers (for so we call our guesstes,) or els when

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When you are from home: For in your absence, they cannot onely see thinges in good order, but also entertayne them, first in the Hall, nexte in your Parlour, (or if you keepe that manner or estate) in your great Chamber, as a right good Gentleman, and some times a Lorde, may bee content (in their Maisters absence) to take all in good part: Yes to tell you all, some heires, (I speake playnely in this place) bee so simple, as their seruingmen, by their counsell, in providinge, foreseeinge, entertaininge and sparinge, doo maintayne their honours and worships.

Valentine.

You speake well, for these sortes of seruantes, I lust not yet a while to reply, I pray you say on. Are these all, that his folly, & foolish ambition doth entertaine: you must not tell what I say.

Vincenr.

I am sure you speake merrily: but yet I will proceede, these sortes of men bee the most number: But besides them wee haue Subseruingmen, (as I may call them,) seldome in sight: As Bakers, Brewers, Chamberlaines, Wardrobers, Faulkeners, Hunters, Horsekeepers, Lackeies: and (for the most parte) a naturall foole, or Jester to make vs spoote: Also a Cooke, with a Scullin or two, Launderers, Hynes, and Hogheards, with some other silly slaues, as I know not how to name them.

Valentine.

I thought I had knowen all pretinie, of a Noble mans, or Gent. house. But now I finde, I do not, for it seemeth a whole Army or Camp: and yet, shal

If ii

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Cyuite and vnciuile life.

I tell you truly what I thinke) this last number though it bee least, is the more necessary sorte of seruants, because these serue necessity, and the other superfluity, or (I may call it) ambition: But altogether they make a world: for my parte, I had rather haue a litle with quiet, then a great deale with such confusion: for though money and prouision bee plentiful in the Countrey, yet spending, and eating, deuoureth all: and for ought I conceaue, there is no great charity in feedinge of many of these men, who eate much, and get litle.

Vincent.

I must confesse it true, that our charge is great, and some of them are also proud, and euill natured people, as were it not for their parents sakes (who bee our good freendes, or Tennants) wee would many times discharge our houses of them: But partly for those respects, and partly for feare, beeing out of service, they should fall into offence of law, wee keepe them, though to our great charge and discontent: for well you know, it were great pittie to see a tall fellow to clype a Gibbet.

Vallentine.

Euen so it were in deed: and yet, if you hap to haue in your ground a fayre great Tree, that beards you no fruit: but with the bowes therof, ouer droppeth an Aker of grasse, which thereby (I meane for want of sunne shine) cannot prosper: were it not better to hebe downe this tree, then for the onely beauty therof, suffer it to grow to your continuall losse and hinderance?

Vincent.

Yes mary would I, but to what purpose would you

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you apply this Parable :

Vallentine.

I can compare a cunly vnquallified seruaint to this Tree, for if hee can none other good, but shew forth his proper person, nor intendeth to bee more profitable, it maketh no great matter, what becomineth of him : cheefely, if hee bee vn honest, and of euil condicion. Let not that therfore comber your conscience: but a gods name prefer your profit beefore the releefe or maintenaunce of such ydle folke.

Vincent.

In very deed syr, I haue heard of learned Clerks, that God and nature hath made nothing in vaine: wherupō I iudge, that men who can no good, the fault is rather their owne, then natures: yet doth it sumwhat stay in my stomach, to discharge a lusty fellow, though his conditions bee but skantly commendable. And the reason is because hee becometh a house well.

Vallentine.

If that bee all, that bindeth you to your charge, I will tell you how you shall better cheape furnish your house, then of these persons, of whom you haue no other vse, then to looke on them, because they are cunly.

Vincent.

As how, I pray you: for considering the smal seruice they doo, and yet are men healthy & sound, I suppose it is no great charity to keepe them.

Vallentine.

What I meane to tell you, is this: that you were best to cause al their pictures to be drawen in their

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best

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best array, and hange them vpin your Hall, and you shall finde them as seemely furniture, as the men them selues, and yet they will put you to no cost, eyther in meate, money, or cloth.

Vincent.

You speake merrily, but yet in good faith reasonably and truly, for sith these men bee sound and stronge, and will notwithstanding bee ydle, I beleue to keepe them, (cheefely with euill condicions) is no great charitie, and hauinge no seruice at their handes, I cannot maintaine reasonably, that they are profitable.

Vallentine.

I am very glad, that you are perswaded to see, that many thinges vled in the Countrey, & accompted godly, bee not euer as they seeme.

Vincent.

In deede, I peeelde vnto you, and had I considered so much a dozen yeares since, it would haue saued mee two thousande poundes of victuals, that these good fellowes haue deuoured: But tell mee touching my next allegation, honour and worship.

Vallentine.

To that I say, that your honor or worship, resteth not either in your Countrey aboade, or keeping of many seruants, but rather in your owne vertue. For though wise men for curtesy, & scoles through simplicitie, Doo salute you with reuerence, yet must you not thinke your selfe the more honorable, vntlesse you be in deede vertuous: I meane wise, baytaunt, iust, temperate, liberall, affable, modest, and in somme, indued with all sortes (or at the least

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least wise) with some vertuous moztall and commendable condicions, wherby you may be known, and at occasions vled, in the seruice of our Prince and Country, either Martially or Ciuilly: for those bee occupations of all nobility, in which word is included all sortes of Gentlemen, aswell those that beare greatest Tytles, as they that haue lesse.

Vincent.

I finde it far otherwise then you say, for albeit a man bee (as few are) in possession of all these vertues, which (you say) doth onely make men honourable: yet if hee bee no Householder, nor keeper of seruants, you see that in his Countrey, neither the neighbours will loue him, nor y^e people do him reuerence.

Vallentine.

I did not, nor will not speake agaynst householdinge, nor yet haue I inuayed agaynst keping of honest and necessary seruantes: but against the superfluitie in either: for I confesse that hospitality, bee it in Towne or Country, is good and godly, and also a testimony of liberality, which is a great vertue, and very commendable. But therewith bee content that I tell you, that though all good housekeepers bee the more honourable, yet euery one that can not, or doth not kepe house, or seruant, must therfore bee disdained or holden vile.

Vincent.

I knowe not what ye mean by disdain or vilety, but I am sure, be a man neuer so vertuous, vnles hee be a housekeeper, no mā wīl in y^e country resort vnto him,

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him, or if hee walke in the Cittie without seruants attending on him, no man wil put off his cap or do him reuerence: how can then such a man bee honorable?

Vallentine.

Yes, yes sir, as much (or perhaps) a great deale more, then hee that spendes a thousand poundes a yeare in his house, or hath in the Towne twenty men to follow him. For though a vertuous man both walke alone for lacke of abillity and riches, yet (if hee bee knowne) hee shalbe honored: though (for want of seruants) hee seemeth not to euery one, that hee is honorable, because it is the vertue of minde, and not the gifts of fortune, that honor is due vnto.

Vincent.

Hee thinkes, you speake wel: and I must needs allow that a vertuous man (though hee bee poore) deserueth to bee respected, and honored: yet experience teacheth the contrary, that men of Title and wealth, are euer honored, and the poozer sorte (though full fraught with vertue) doo passe without reputation: As for example, when we Gentlemen of the Countrey doo reason, (as many times wee doo) of Noble men, Knightes, and all other degrees, comparinge some one to an other of the same callinge: we accompt him more or lesse honorable or worshipfull, as hee is more or lesse landed or wealthy.

Vallentine.

I doo not vnderstand you, I pray you tell mee, as how you make your comparison.

If

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Vincent.

If there bee two Lordes in our Countrey, and
¶ one hath twenty hundreth pounds in reuenue,
and the other but fiftene, wee say, hee that hath
the more liuinge is the more honourable Lorde.
And likewise, if two Knightes, the one hauinge a
thousand pounde rent, the other not half so much,
wee say they bee both men of worshippe, but not
worshipfull alike, but the one more, the other lesse:
And so from degree to degree, wee make our esti-
mation: Also you shall see it as a rule, taken and
followed amonge Gentlemen, that hee that hath
lesse lyuinge, giueth place to him that hath more:
though for byrth and vertue, hee much better. The
same guise their good wines vse in the Countrey:
for a rich Laboyers wife, or the wife of a lustye
younge Francklin, that is lately become a Gentle-
woman (Gra mercé, Monser le Harrault) will make
no ceremony I warrant you to sit downe and take
place before any poore Gentlewoman, bee shee ne-
uer so vertuous, wel borne or married to a Gentles-
man in deede, of a good race, vnlesse hee hap to
haue either authority in the Countrey, or good
plenty of lyuinge.

Vallentine.

I doo now vnderstand well, howe the worlde
walketh, and am sorry for it, lithe that which is
without the man should more honour him, then
that is within him. This estimacion I must (not-
withstanding that the multitude do allow it) vtter-
ly reiecte as false and vile.

Vincent.

And why? will you oppose your self to the opinion
of

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of so many: I dare say, if you come into the country and aske of this matter, I warrant you they will say (without exception) the wealthier man, is the more honest man: and the greater landed Gentleman, the better man of worship.

Vallentine.

Then by that reason, my Lorde Mayors Horse, is a worthier beast, then Maister Recorders Hoyle, because hee carrieth a ritcher burden: for that in your accompt, thinges without vs bee those that honour the person. But this folly and false iudgement in honour, commeth of ignorance, and ignorance proceedeth from your manner of life in the Country, where indeede, you neuer attende to know what doth become you, but what may enrich you, wherin you are far worst of the Lawyer, and Ploughman, the one hauing a trade to ketch copie, by his counsell and crafte, the other by his labour and lucke. You in the meane season (though in troth, attentiu enough to heare of profit :) yet mixing your thirstie desire with mirth and solace, as hauking, and hunting, can neuer attaine to that wealth, which they do, and yet you will yeeld them honour. Certainly, if you had beene traded vp in the Court or Towne, you would cast an other accompt of this matter, and bee not so barely minded as to way the worth of men, by the rente of their landes or the money in their purses.

Vincent.

I did not say, that this was my iudgement, but the opinion almost vniuersall, for if one man in the Countrey do hold your minde, I dare say you shal finde an hundreth to incounter him.

Vallentine.

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Vallentine.

It may so bee (cheefely in this corrupt age,) but for my parte, though twise a hundreth men did encounter my iudgement, I care not, for I am sure there is not one wise man among two hundreth.

Vincent.

Well, I am content to yeelde rather to reason then the multitude, and beleue with you, & men are more or lesse honourable, as they are more or lesse vertuous, not measuring them (as the multitude doth) as they are layed in Subledy bookes.

Vallentine.

I thanke you sye, for dooing mee such fauour, as to concurre with mee in opinion. I pray you proceede in the rest of your countrey commendacions.

Vincent.

Then must I speake of the holsonnesse of our dwellinges, which without contradiction is much more, then your abroad in Citties, Court, or towne, where the ayre is commonly straught, & the concourse of people great: which two thinges must needes breede contagion and sicknes, there wanteth also commoditie for exercise, which is a thinge very necessary to maintaine health, we may at our willes walke, & ronne, hauke, and hunt, our feilds beeing spacious, and our game plentifull. All which thinges you want in Court & Cittie, or with great difficulty you haue them.

Vallentine.

Euery commoditie beareth about it, some discomfort: yet if I lust to reason, so needles a problem, I could say, that as Courtes and Cities, by reason of the concourse of people become oft times

G ii

vnpleasantly

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

vnpleasauntly aired, yet the sight is of more importance and worthier consideration. For it may bee that a perticuler house in the country, (as commonly all olde buildinges were) bee as low, and vnholsoonly placed, as any Cittie, for here of was greater aduise in sytinge it. Also tharin are great prouisions to preuent corruption and sickness: the people also beeing therein, are more neate and ciuill then they bin in the countrey: For cleynnes is a speciall preseruatiue against infection, yea, if you did, or could knowe the whole number of people that did inhabit London, or any other cittie, comparinge them with as many of the Countrey, and marke how many died weekly of either, you should commonly see the thing would fall out indifferent, though at some one time died more Citizengs, yet at some other you should finde, as great plagues and sicknesse, among the Masse of your countrey folke. And for your exercises (which I confesse are honest and good,) I will speake of them here after when you hap, (as you haue promised) to praise the pleasure of your countrey dwelling: Let it then suffice, that touchinge the good or euill ayre and holesomnes, or vnholesomnes of our diuerse dwellinges, I refer you to the sighte of the places, and leaue them to your wisdom without comparinge. Wee liue here till wee can no longer, and you till you die: some are very healthy, and some euer sickly: some haue much of the one, and some of the other. Euery man to his fortune.

Vincent.

Then say, let that bee, as bee may, for I finde in euery ayre, some liue longe, & some lesse, though
few

Cyuaile and vnciuile life.

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sew so longe as they would : but now let vs com-
mon of our quiet.

Vallentine.

With all good will, I am content to heare you,
say what you lust, for it will please mee much, to
know of your quiet life.

Vincent.

Understand you (good Maister Vallentine) that our
houses bee, (or at the lease) the most auncient of
them, sited in places remote, and far from any Cit-
tie, Burrough, (or almost) Village, wherby wee
want those noysome noyses of crying and carria-
ges, which necessarily the Citizens must abide.

Our gates bee not enery handwhile knocked, for
either they are all day open, or that our Porters
bee still present to let men in and out, wee are not
much troubled with sendinge too and fro, for our
prouisions : because euery Gentleman, if hee bee a
man of any reasonable lands, and forecast, he hath
about home, vpon his owne Demeanes, all sorts of
victuall for horse and man, and like wise fewel : So
as in conclusion, I tell you hee needeth not to dis-
quiet him selfe, either in sence or wit, vnlesse it bee
some one ambitious Gentleman amonge many,
who (because he would seeme more benozable the
ther est) wilbe ritchly apparrelled, and fill his Sel-
ler with Wines of sundry sortes, which prouision
in deed wee haue not without sending to London,
or some great Cittie.

Vallentine.

I perceane (as partly I did before) that your
houses bee far from company, which in the respect
you haue spoken, are the more quiet, and yet mee

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thinks,

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

thinks, I would not want the comfote of nigh-
boured for the quiet you haue tolde vs, which ne-
uerthelesse may bee enough: And wheras you al-
lege that your prouisions at hande doth acquite
you of trouble, which wee haue in the towne, therein
I iudge you deceaue your selfe. For albeit corne
groweth on your owne demeane, and your wood
likewise, also your cattell and all countrey foode:
yet dare I warrant you before such time as the
same prouisions be fit for your vse (I meane, your
Lande manured, your corne reaped, your wood
cut downe, & all thinges ready, and brought home
as they must bee: your trouble and disquiet wil be
much more then ours, that sende twise a day from
our house to the Market in the towne where wee
dwell.

Vincent.

In deede I had forgotten, that wee haue much
adoo in seed season, to set forth our Plowes, in har-
uest to reape our corne, and towards winter to lay
in our fiewell: But all these thinges yet wee haue
without money, which you haue not.

Vallentine.

Without money: But for by your fauour, not
without cost, and other whiles wee haue them bet-
ter cheape then you, though they growe on your
owne ground, as I will hereafter perswade when
I shall answer you, touchinge the profite of the
Countrey, which is one of your allegations.

Vincent.

Then do I longe much to heare, yet let mee tel
you our touch more of our quiet, which is our auc-
thority, for a number of vs bee Iustices, some of
Quoram,

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

Quoram, and many of the Peace, some Shierues
some Surueyors, some Elchetoys, some feoda-
ries, and such like, others also, though in no office,
yet beeinge discended of wealthy and worshopfull
houses, are much respected, worshipped and feared
of the people: But if the best of these remayned in
Court (without office there) or in þe Citty or towne,
the meanest Marchaunt, or sylliest Shoemaker,
woulde scantly respecte vs, and none at all feare
vs.

Vallentine.

For wee them: and yet shall I speake plainly,
I had rather bee worshipped or respected of one
chuil or wise man (such as liue in Courts or towne)
then of one hundred Countrey loutes, that either
doo salute you for flattery, or honour you ignorant-
ly: And lothe would I bee, to finde you so grosse,
as to thinke that among twise tenne of those pleas-
beyall sortes, there bee two of iudgement enough
to know what honour is due to one, more then to
an other.

Vincent.

And why so sayst thou? I warrant you that they
vnderstand, what Noble man or Gentleman doo
well neare them, and what honour is due to ey-
ther: Neyther are they so ignorant, or vnciuil, but
if they hap to meet any such well apparrelled per-
son, in his worshopfull garmentes, or with a fayre
cheyne about his necke, the countrey loutes (as
you terme them) can so much good manner, as to
put off their hats, and if the Gentleman be braue
in dede, they will also doo him other reuerence.

Vallentine.

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Vallentine.

Not so, but I thinke verely they will often do reuerence to the Gentlemans cheyne, or his braue coate, which curtesie men of iudgement do not regard, for they would be honoured for them selues and their vertue, and though no man doth commit Adultery to their cheynes, or garmentes they force litle: which error I haue seen not only comon people to commit, but (by your leaue,) many of your worshipfull inhabitantes, who by reason, you are continually abydinge in the Countrey, you know neither the persons of the Nobility, nor yet the very Magistrates that gouerne. Wherby (when happely ye bee called before them,) you know neither what difference to make, either of their persons or dignities. The like simplicity I haue seen in your Wives: and yet in them more excuseable, (because they may not modestly without your leaues, see so much of the world:) who when they come to Court, do neither know the gentlewomen from the Ladies, nor scantly the Queene her self. What Gentleman or Gentlewoman would not be ashamed of such ignorance, and wissheth not rather that he had spent twise two hundred pounds then to shew him selfe to bee such a one as I haue tolde you.

Vincent.

In very deede, (Maister Vallentine,) it is meete for euery Gentleman to know, the person of his Prince: and likewise of the Magistrates, (or at the least, of the most of them, and surely such knowledge is not gotten without comminge to Court, or places where they resort: Notwithstanding if
all

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

all Gentlemen Should follow the Court or dwell in London, how should the countrey bee gouerned? For without Iustices of Peace and officers there, the people would be out of order, and the Princes service must needs bee neglected.

Vallentine.

Although I take vpon mee to remember Gentlemen, of their grosse ignorance and lacke of ciuility, yet is not my intent to traine them all their whole liues, out of their countrey, neyther would I wish them, (cheefely Officers, & ministers of the Princes in Iustice) to remaine alwaies: either in court or Cittie: But to resort thither at such age & times, as hee is either not imployed, or not needed, which if hee did (I am most assured) his service would be prooue the more worth, and him self a great Deale the more ciuill: If it please you to consider that if any important service bee committed to the Iustices of any Shier, you shall see the same (or the cheefe trust therof) allotted to men knowne to the Prince or the Councell, and not to others. And if after the sayd service bee performed and any report therof must be made, if a man do come to do that office (beeing before knowne to the Prince or Magistrates, you shall finde hee shall be heard with more respecte, and dispatched with more speede, then if any other vnknowne, or vnskilfull person had beene presented vnto them.

Vincent.

No doubt of that, but would you haue all Gentlemen thus finely brought vp, and that there should no Iustices of Peace remaine in the Countrey, mee thinkes that were exceeding strange.

H

Vallentine.

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Vallentine.

I did wish indeed, that all Gentlemen were wel brought vp, and resorters to Court or Cittie, yet I saide not that they should euer abandon the countrey, cheefely those that are imployed there.

Vincent.

Then it seemeth that you would haue all the rest to bee Courtiers and Townes men, how should any of them then aspire to the offices of the Countrey, when there they are not abidinge.

Vallentine.

My meaning is not to entice them all to Court, or to Cittie from their naturall shier: But that such (as would not doo them selues that great good) that at the least they would some times, & cheefely in their youth, abide in their cheefe towne or cittie of their countrey, where they may conuerse with a people more ciuill, then the poore villaines, and bee notwithstanding at hand to take office (if it be layed on them :) Also if they bee in office already, they dwell there fitly enough to exercise the same. But by this you haue saide, it seemeth you are, or faine would bee an Officer in your countrey.

Vincent.

Nay not so syr, but yet if it bee layed vpon mee, I must not refuse to serue my Prince.

Vallentine.

I warrant you syr, if you bee no better acquainted in Court then you seeme, nor no better learned then I, you shall neuer bee troubled with office, vnlesse some freend of yours doo recommend you, for so obscure education as you speake, will slowly prefer you.

Vincent.

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Vincent.

I confesse our preferment is slow, and yours (bee it spoken with patience) is not ouer swift. For if you marke well it is much better to sinell of the labo, then of the Launce.

Vallentine.

By my fay sye, you haue hit mee home, for truely I wish that those saouours did yeeld thurst alike. But how happy are you, for whom fortune hath so well prouided, as you neede neither to taste the paines of the one, nor the perrill of the other. But Basta. Let vs returne to the matter, & tell mee how ye are perswaded of my spech touching your quiet. x

Vincent.

Exceedingly well: And must acknowledge that in manuringe our owne groundes, wee offer our selues much disquiet and care, not becomminge a Gentleman. Also in consideration of our strangnes to the Court, wee are made the lesse meete for gouernment, & not to know the person of our Prince is a thinge that amazeth a Gentleman much. I yeelde therfore vnto your reasons, and the rather because you will neither binde vs continually to Court, nor London: But that wee may both visite our owne countrey houses, and yee make cheefe abode in our thier towne, as places to keepe vs in that ciuilitie, is behoonefull.

Vallentine.

You vnderstande mee right, and you shall by your dwellinge in those Townes, much enritche the people, that they thereby enabled maye make their buyldinges the more beautifull and commodious, so that in one acte you woorke

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two good effectes, which are to make your selues
ciuill, and enrich the towne.

Vincent.

But how say you to our pleasures and pleasant
exercises of the countrey: for that was the next I
promised to praise. I trust you will allow of them,
and commend your owne coldly, for I thinke they
be colde enough in Deede.

Vallentine.

Well say, I perceane you haue a colde conceit of
of our Courtly pleasures, but what of that: tel vs
yours I pray you.

Vincent.

Wee haue in troth so great store of them, as there
is no time of the yeare, no houre of the day, nor
no weather, but wee haue a pastime to entertaine
vs with.

Vallentine.

As how: for Gods sake, say on.

Vincent.

In the spring time (and cheefely in Lent) wee
fish the Carpe, the Pike, the Breame, the Roche,
and the Peele, as good meates in the eatinge, as
good sportes in the ketching. In sommer we dare
the Larke with Hobbies, and ketch them with Day
Nettes. In haruest when corne is done, our
Sparkaukes bee ready to kill the Partridge, the
Quayle, and Rayle. In winter wee haue the
Heron, the Feasant, the Ducke, the Teale: And
in breefe, all sortes of volary. The like pleasures
wee can shew you vpon the ground, (for you must
conceane that all these fowles doo fly,) and bee it
your will to hunt with your eye or eare, wee are
ready

Cyuile and vnciuile life.

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ready for you as if you please to see with the eye,
wee course the Stagge, the Bucke, the Roa, the
Doa, the Hare, the Foxe, and the Badger: Or if
you had rather haue some Musicke to content your
care, out goes our Dogges, our houndes (I should
haue saide) with them wee make a heauenly noise
or cry, that would make a dead man reuiue, and
run on foote to heare it.

Vallentine.

But by your leaue, if you wisht your owne good
father, whose Heire you are, would rise from death
to life, you had rather neuer heare hound, then
trouble his rest.

Vincent.

Very well sayd, you thinke I would bee lothe to
trace my Fathers new steppes vpon his olde land,
I speake like a hunter, and to tell you plainly, as
I neuer desired his death: So were it no reason
I should put him to paines, of recreauing his arre-
rage of rents, which I haue spent these half dozen
yeares past.

Vallentine.

Much good may it doo you, and let him rest,
(God giue him rest :) But tell mee if all these plea-
sures, wherof you tolde, bee they vsed by day or
night, in faire weather, or tobole?

Vincent.

In good sooth (Maister Vallentine) either you are
wonderously pleasaunt, and disposed, or els very
ignorant in Gentlemens quallities, that will aske
me these vain questions: For euery man knoweth
that the day time is fittest for all sportes, and like-
wise the faire weather.

¶ iii

Vallentine,

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

Vallentine.

Oh sir, I pray you pardon mee, for I confesse
I am vnskillfull, yet vnlesse I bee much deceaued,
I haue hard hounds barke by night, & haue seene
foulers ketch Woodcockes in colde weather.

Vincent.

Indreed it may bee, you haue hard sumtymes
hounds yorne, (for so you ought to terme it) by
night, and I suppose the winter weather and hard,
is fittest for ketching of Woodcockes in deede.

Vallentine.

Well, I am glad, you know therby I haue hard,
and seene sumwhat worthy a Gentleman: I pray
you now tell vs your pastimes, destined for fowle
weather, & how many be of them, besides ketching
of Woodcockes.

Vincent.

I assure you many, and those diuerse (in which I
will include our exercises also: but because you de-
maund of our fowle wether pastimes, I wil speake
of them first.

Vallentine.

You are full of memory & order, I pray you say on.

Vincent.

In fowle weather, we send for some honest neigh-
bours, if happely wee bee with our wiues alone at
home (as seldome we are) and with them we play
at Dice, and Cardes, sorting our selues accoordinge
to the number of Players, and their skill, some to
Ticktacke, some Lurche, some to Irish game, or
Dublets: Other sit close to the Cardes, at Post &
Paire, at Ruffe, or Colchester Trumpe, at Back
or Haw: yea, there are some euer so fresh game-
sters,

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

sters, as wil bare you cōpany at Nouem Quingue, at faring, Trey trip, or one & thirty, for I warrant you, we haue right good fellowes in the countrey, sumtymes also (for shift of sports, you know is delectable) we fall to slide thrifte, to Penny prick, & in winter nights, we vse certaine Christmas games very proper, & of much agilitie, wee want not also pleasant mad headed knaues, & bee properly learned, and will reade in diuerse pleasant booke, and good Authoꝝ: As Sir Guy of VVarwicke, & foure Sonnes of Amon, the Ship of Fooles, the Budget of Demaundes, the Hundreth merry Tales, the Booke of Ryddles, and many other excellent writers, both witty and pleasaunt. These pretty and pithy matters, do some times recreate our mindes, cheefely after longe sittinge, and losse of money. In faire weather when we haue straungers, or holly daies (for els in the day time wee attend our thrift) wee exercise our selues in shooting at Buttes, Pyckes, Roauers and Robones: We cast the Bar or sledge, Leape or Run, if our ages and condicion bee fit for such exercise, els (beeing aged) wee chat at home, and talke of Turrin, and Toroy, or some other notable war, wherein wee serued our Prince: Or if wee haue cōtinually dwelt at home, & bin Iustices of Peace, we accōpt what graue Judges & gentlemen we haue seene sit on our Bench, & with what eloquence we haue (when it was our turne) geuen the charge.

Vallentine.

Certainly syz, you haue told mee of many proper pleasures, and honest exercises: But with all let mee aske you what Neighboures these companions bee, of whom you haue tolde mee.

Vincent

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

Vincent.

They are our honest neighbours, Yeomen of the Countrey, and good honest fellowes, dwellers there about: as Graiers, Butchers, Farmers, Drouers, Carpenters, Carriers, Taylors & such like men, very honest and good companions.

Vallentine.

And so I thinke, but not for you beeing a Gentleman: for as their resort vnto your house shal giue them occasion to learne some point of ciuility, and curtesie, so your conuersinge with them will make you taste of their bluntnes and rusticitie, which wil very euill become a man of your calling.

Vincent.

What would you then haue mee liue alone, and solitary: That were worse then to bee Dead.

Vallentine.

Nay, neither, for if you did, for the most liue in Court or Cittie among the better sorte, you should euer finde company there, fit for your estate and condicion: I meane Noble and Gentlemen, (with whom if you had acquaintance) you would litle delight in this rustical conuersation, and lesse reioyce at that mirth, which (now not knowinge better) doth (as it seemeth) please you much.

Vincent.

If these pastimes bee not fit for a Gentleman, what would you haue vs to make our selues mery with:

Vallentine.

That wil I tel you hereafter, when you demaund to know the pastimes and exercises of Court. In the meane time, tell on your owne tale, being now
come

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

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come to the last commodity of the Countrey which is profit.

Vincent.

I thought it had beene needles for mee to haue saide any thinge therof, because I thinke you see y^e matter in such experience, as it nedeth no dispute.

Vallentine.

What meane you by that? when there is nothing (as I tolde you long since,) perfittly good, nor perfittly euill, onely vertue and vice except.

Vincent.

All this while you flye aboue my pitch, I praye you speake plainely, doo you thinke the thrifte of Noble men and Gentlemen, haunting the Court, or inhabitinge the Citties, is comparable to the good husbandry and profit of the Countrey?

Vallentine.

Yea surely do I, and therefore conclude not in hast.

Vincent.

How can it so bee, when the most part, yea in effect, all Courtiers, and to some dwelling Gentlemen bee beggers (or at the least poore in purse) and wee of the Countrey, bee either all, or the greater number, very wealthy, or ritche enough.

Vallentine.

All this may bee true, and yet neither the Court or Towne is cause of their pouerty, nor the Countrey dwelling, the occasion of your ritches.

Vincent.

Well say, sith experience will not perswade you, I will set downe some reasons to drawe you to mine opinion. And first call you to memory the continuall & excessive charge which the Courtier,

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

or Cittie dweller is at, I mean in feeding him self, seruauntes, and famely: likewise how costly and almost princely hee apparrelleth him selfe, his wife, his children, and seruauntes, and all this charge goeth from the purse, for prouision hath hee none: neither doth hee sow any graine, reare any cattel, nor his wife and women seruauntes spin any cloth, & though they so did, none I suppose of you would weare it, such is your pride. On the other side, all the corne wee make our bread of, groweth on our demeane ground, the flesh wee eat, is all (or the most parte) of our owne breeding, our garmentes also, or much therof, made within our house. Our owne Vault and water maketh our drinke: So as in conclusion, I say that sith the necessities of mans life consisteth vpon these: I meane meate, drinke, and cloth. (All which cost vs nothinge, or very litle, and you very much) how can you in reason conceaue, that wee should bee no richer then you, that haunt Courts, and inhabit Citties.

Vallentine.

What you alleage, or the most therof, I thinke is true, but your conclusion false: For albeit your prouisions be great, yet your expences beeing greater, your thrifte is like to ours, who haue small prouision, and like charge.

Vincent.

How can your charge be litle, when the cost of keepinge one man in Court, or Towne, will be as much, as to keepe three in the Countrey.

Vallentine.

And that I iudge is also true, but if my one man in the towne, will serue mee as well as your three men

men in the Countrey serue you, though that one
pendeth mee as much as your three. I care not:
for my thurst is no whit the lesse, nor yours & more,
if of force (as in deede you must) keepe so many.
For where there is (as you alleage) great Tillage,
rearinge bp of Cattell, Spinninge, and Cardinge,
with daily resorte, besides of straungers; (as is
commonly to Gentlemen in the Countrey,) there
must needes bee also many seruauntes, which con-
course of people, and busines breedeth occasion of
continuall expence of victuall: So as in effect you
keepe many that doo bring you home profite, and
they with others, doo straight waies eate it bp,
what are you then the better? but by thus much
the worse then we, that you are combred with the
vnlooked for resorte of freends and foes, and the
daily feeding of many seruauntes.

Vincen.

Whe thinkes your speech hath good sence, yet
because it is long, I do not perfectly conceaue it, as
I desire. I pray you tell mee your reason breefely.

Vallentine.

Then must you imagine that you haue ten loads
of Haye in your Stable, and ten horses which of
force you must keepe. In my Stable I haue but
one load, and one horse. now will I aske you whi-
ther your proportion bee larger for your cattell, or
mine for mee?

Vincen.

They seeme all one, sauinge that hee that hath
the greatest prouisiō, hath also the greater trouble.

Vallentine.

Then I am glad you vnderstande: for such is

It

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Cyuite and vnciuile life.

the difference, betwixt the Countrey and towne dweller, the one hath much prouision, and many to spend it, the other hath litle, and few to consume it. So as I gesse, all comes to one reckoninge, saue that the greatest hauer, hath the lesse quiet.

Vincenr.

But yet by your leaue (Maister Vallentine) you say beleen Courtiers, albeit you want prouision, and haue litle, yet will you also spend much. And how then?

Vallentine.

Why then I say, so many of vs (as indeede such is the honour of the most) bee plaine banckes routes, and beggers, as you call vs, but in whom is the fault: not in the Court nor yet in the towne. But in our owne selues, and our owne folly: But such as liue in Court or in towne orderly, & spende within their proportion, may bee equall with you in thriste, and in quietnes far before you.

Vincenr.

Yet haue you not fully answered mee, for sith besides my yearly rentes, I haue three or foure hundred Acres of Demeane landes, wherupon my prouision groweth, I accompt my house costeth me nothing, when you that haue none, but liue on the penny, must needes spend without measure.

Vallentine.

Why for if you lust, let out your Demeanes, wete it worth no rente?

Vincenr.

Yes that it were, for there is no Acre of it, but would yeeld mee yearly a crowne.

Vallentine.

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Cyule and vnciuile life.

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Vallentine.

Then may you accompt, your prouision cost you
yearly foure hundreth crownes.

Vincent.

By my fay, you say troth, for if I did not eate it,
I perceauē I should haue it: But then how should
my house bee kept, and my neighbours loue mee?

Vallentine.

A great Deale better now for you, & other Gentle-
men disposing your selues, (as ful yll it becommeth
you) to bee Ploughmen, you haue learned what
euery soyle is worth, and so after that rate, set out
your land, wherby the poore Husbandman or Far-
mer payeth so deare for your comining, and neigh-
borhood, as hee had rather you lined further off
like a Gentleman, though for very flattery or feare
when hee dineth at your Boarde, hee saith, hee is
sory your worship would dwell away, when God
wotteth, the poore man meaneth nothinge lesse:
For I haue learned that those Tennantes haue
best peny worthes of their Farnes, whose Land-
lordes do least know the Lande, or dwell furthest
from it. Wherfore you deceaue your selfe, to thinke
that your continuall dwelling in the Country, doth
ease the poore Ploughman, so long as you play the
Ploughman your selfe, or let your lande at great
rente: For shall you not finde a number of poore
Husbandmen that almost starue for want of lande
to manure: wherof I iudge nothinge a greater
cause, then that Gentlemen bee becomē Plough-
men, and are not contente to let the poore hier it,
and liue of the rente, as their calling is, which co-
uetous, and clobonishē honour they cloake vnder

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pretence

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

presence of hospitallitie.

Vincent.

But if I should not occupy my lande, how should I know what it were worth: for this I found by experience (calling home into my handes certayne coppy houldes, let out by mine Ancestors) that euery Acre was twise so much worth, as the rente I receiued for it.

Vallentine.

Loe, now in earnest you speake like a worshipfull Ploughman, not like a worthy Gentleman, for this experience, wherof you speake, were better vnknewen then vled. Therefore some Doctors doo thinke it better not to know all thinges, then to know them: meaning (as I iudge) that euery man should not bee to deepe a searcher in an others profession or mystery, least led on with priuate profit he hindereth the common comoditie.

Vincent

By this reason (wherin I confesse is good sence) the Gentlemen of y^e Country that occupieth much lande with his owne Plough, and feedeth many other, letting also his lande wel and roundly, were as well spared, as present among his Tennantes: Notwithstanding hee keepeth good hospitallitie.

Vallentine.

Yea certainly, for they giue the poore men their Tennants, a meales meat twise a weeke worth a groate, and force him to pay a shillinge more then hee was wonte, before his lorde became so skilfull a husband. Yea by your leaue also, if your poore Tennant presentes you with a couple of Capons, or a Pigge, it is many times welcome, all the meat hee eateth at your Table is not so much worth.

Vincent.

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Vincent.

I partly conceaue now the substance of al this discourse vpon profit, & finde in deede that comparing the number which wee keepe in the countrey, with those that you do in the Cittie, the cost of householdinge commeth all to one accompt, and to confesse troth, I suppose there is more certenty in the proportion of your charges then in ours. And (as I graunted before) not halfe the trouble. And sith I am led thus far from mine olde foolish minde and common loue to our countrey custome, to inhabite there, I will tell you of great and excessiue priuie charges, which wee be at in our houses, (I meane in our household stufte, and cheefely linnen, for if a Gentleman haue in his house twenty beads, (as many haue) and some a greater number, wee haue them full often occupied with straungers and their seruants, who for the most parte bee so careless, or slouenly, as they will make quicke speede to weare out not only our linnen, but also our hanginges, Curtaines, and Canopies of silke: So as within a litle tyme wee spoyle a great deale of good stufte, and then forced to buy new. For as you see Gentlemen daily resorte vnto common Innes, so do they daily resort to Gentlemens houses, with man and horse, hauke and dog, till the poore Master of the house hath al his linnen foule, al his provision eaten, & his household stufte made vnsauery, & oft times torne and spoiled. But al this notwithstanding I acknowledge to be true, yet it greeneth mee to dwel from my owne house where my neighbors loue me, & my tenants do feare me, yet would I faine do, as you aduise me were not the fashion, and the custome to the contrary.

Vallentine.

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

Vallentine.

By so saying, you renue an olde verse, that beeing a Schoole boy, I oftentimes red: Video meliora, proboque, deteriora sequor. But I praye you let no thinge that is euil, vnfit or vnprofitable entice you to continue it, because the same hath beene an auncient custome, for I dare warrant you, that Vice is as olde, as any vertue: and yet I hope you are not so simple, as for the age (against all reason) you will allow it for good.

Vincent.

In very deede, you discourse so well, as I must needes confesse my selfe driven to the wall, with playne reason, yet while it comes to my minde, let mee aske you how your Wiues will bee brought to leaue their Countrey Gossippes, with whom they haue had longe loue and familiaritie. Also to discharge their Dayeries (which is their priuate profite) will touch their stomackes neare, cheefely the thriftier sorte, and good huswines: for some that loue not huswinery would easely bee perswaded to the Towne, because they may lye longe a bed, and weare gay garments.

Vallentine.

Now haue you mooued a sober doubt, and well I wot not how to answer therunto, vnlesse I knew your wiues disposition, for I am very lothe to offend: Notwithstandinge because wee do common heare priuately, and not as they doo in Parliament iudicially. I wil tel you my opinion touching your wiues, I pray you heare what I say, but tell not them, what I sayde: (or if you doo) say not from whom you had it.

Vincent.

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

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Vincent.
With all my hart, for I learned longe agoe, (as
I remember of olde Ouid the loue) Paruus tacere
labor.

Valentine.

Then doe I tell you flatly, that your wiues bee
no lesse, but happely more from the order of ciuili-
tie, and the life of Gentlewomen then you are your
selues, and therfore can I lightly beleue, they wil
not bee willingly brought to leaue their Countrey
gossips, and gamesters, and more hardly to put a-
way their good milch Cow: But your wisdom
must euer rule their conetous folly: For if you con-
sider how vncumly a thing it is to see, (as I haue
some times seene, and you I am sure often.) A
Gentlewoman walkinge in the pastures, among
her Cowes, and Calues, al to be dabled with dew
and dyte, and other whiles wandering in the hot
sommer a longe mile, to finde out her hey makers,
or corne reapers: So as beeing come thither, or at
the least before shee bee returned home to her hus-
bands bord, or bed, what with myze in winter, and
sweating in sommer, shee is become a morsell more
meete for a Mobyre, or a Mason: then a Gentle-
men, or a ciuill husbande. This I know is their
vse: yea, I haue seene some of greater title then a
Gentlewoman vse this manner of topling: And if
any other Gentlewoman bee more fine or delicate
(as shee ought to bee indeede) shee is misliked a-
mong them, and called a cleane fingered girle, as
though that were a great ignomy. But now sye,
I dare promise that you hauinge yeelded to bee ci-
uill your selfe, will no more allow of this life in your
wiues,

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

Wiuies : But remoue such manners from them, either by reason or ouer rulinge, for f sex is not euer reasonably. Vincent.

For my parte, I wish my wife were not so paynfull an huswife, and yet is that no euell propertie, but a thinge very profitable. And though good huswiues in deed, must neither shun the Sommer Sweate, nor Doubt to march in the Winter mper, yet I warrant you vpon the Hollyday, or when shee lust to goe into fine company, shee hath good garments, and can weare them well and Courtefly.

So can also our Gentlemen of the Countrey, for though wee walke at home plainly apparrelled: yet when wee come to the Assizes, London, or any other place of assembly, wee will put on Courtlike garments, (and though I say it) some of vs weare them with good grace.

Vallentia.

I beleene you, enen like a Constable in Midsommer watch. But this is no great matter.

Vincent.

Well then wee do not differ much: Let vs therefore come to conclusion, because I longe to heare how men be trained, and exercised in Courte and Cittie, for (as it seemed by your speche) their manner of liues, doo much resemble one thother.

Vallentine.

And so they doo in deed, I meane the Gentlemen, and not the Marchants and Meeanicall people, for their trade (as you can conceaue) is turned an o ther waies: But I praye you say on, for it seemed, you ment to resight in breefe the somme of all this speech, and how well we haue by consent resolved.

Vincent.

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

Vincent.

That is my intent, so far as wit and memory will serue mee. But first let mee intreat you to tel sumwhat of Courte, and Cobone Dwelling: then shall you heare my minde, and conclusion of all together.

Vallentine.

Merely (Maister Vincent,) I must (vntlesse I should wrong you) commend your memory a great Deale, and many thanks must I also allow you, for your patience, in hearing my pooze reason, and discourse, which (as it seemeth) is not in vaine, but hath taken the effecte I desired.

Vincent.

Yea surely syz, and therof reste you assured. I pray you now let vs forget the Countrey, and (as you promised,) say sumwhat of the Court & Cittie habitation. For I am a straunger to these places, though your hap bee to finde mee here at this present in London.

Vallentine.

You might thinke mee of euil manner, and lesse curtsie, if I refused to performe your reasonable request, and the rather for the honour you haue done mee, in yeelding to my reasons.

Vincent.

Then without more ceremony I praye you begin, and feele no offence, though I through ignorance doo aske many questions, for mannes nature, (you wot well) is desirous to know, cheefely thinges commendable.

Vallentine.

Euen so it is. But touching my talke of the Court, and Cobone habitatiō, although I haue at length
K ii proued,

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

prooued, that in those places ought to be & Gentle-
mens cheefe aboade, yet I thinke it not necessary
to make any newe comparison : But onely to touch
some matters, how men do there liue, and in what
ages and estates the Courtinge life doth become :
For to take vpon mee to frame a Courtier, were
presumption, I leaue that to the Earle Baldazar,
whose Booke translated by Sir Thomas Hobby, I
thinke you haue, or ought to haue reade. I wil not
therfore cumber you with the educatiō of a gentle-
man, for that is already spoken of. For whither the
same bee in Armes or learning, it is indifferent, for
(as I tolde you) the state hath neede of both, and
both do alike beseeine him vnderstande you, then
that all Gentlemen inhabiting the Citties, & there
from their Cradle brought vp, can not bee so hard
to bee entred into a ciuill life, as they were, bee-
ing brought vp in the Countrey till they bee sixteene
or eyghtene yeares olde, before which time they
are so deeply rooted in rusticitie, as they prooue
like vnto the haggard haukes, which many times
are so wilde and indisciplinable, as wil either neuer
or with great labour bee reclaimed. The like I say
of their liues, through rusticall company in childe-
hoode, doo get them selues as it were an habite in
loughy lokes, clownish speech, and other vngentle
manly Iestures, as it is a good while (yea many
times neuer) that those rusticities bee leaffe. But
I will no more speake of children : onely this I say
that young Gentlemen, (whose Parentes inhabit
the Cittie, and are desirous to haue their Sonnes
well and vertuously brought vp) besides that, they
shalbe free from these Countrey conditions, they
may,

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

may, or then come to this age, bee perfectly learned in the Greeke and Lattin tongues, and other whyles in other bolgare languages: also he may haue some good intrance in the sciences Mathematicall knowledges, very fitte for a Martiall man, and not vnfit for the Ciuill Officer: Whereof I infer that at this age, or shortly after hee is to bee iudged, wherunto hee is by nature and desire most inclined.

Vincent.

Wee will then for this time imagine (and for my part so wish) that all Noble and Gentlemen, did dwell in Citties, and Townes, and that thereby their children should not be infected with the countrey conditions, but were as apte for Courte, and Ciuitie, as you would haue them: what would you then they should do, beeing come to eyghtene or twenty yeares: as you seeme to desire, beeing well entred and learned in those studies, that become a Gentleman.

Vallentine.

I would then (findinge the inclination of my sonne to learninge) continue and encourage him therein, and make him (I hope) a man fit for his countrey, or at the least for him selfe.

Vincent.

As how: I pray you proceede: for beeing now my selfe perswaded to dwell in the Cittie, & haue many younge children, I would directe them the best I could.

Vallentine.

I wish that your sonne, hauing passed the scholes, and spent some time in the vniuersitie, finding him disposed to learne the common lawes, you should

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

in any wise continue him, and (as I sayd before) holde him therto as a study both necessary for the state, and profitable for him selfe. Or if he rather affecteth the lawes Ciuill, or the science Mathematicall, I would aduise you (if such bee your ability) to send him to study in the Vniuersities of forraine Countreies, where hee may make double profit, I meane, learne the knowledg hee seeketh, and also the language of the place.

Vincent.

But I pray you, giue mee leaue to demaunde to what vse the knowledg of y^e lawes ciuil do serue, for it is the law of the Realine, only (as I thinke) that bringeth in both honor, and profit.

Vallentine.

I deny not, but after our longe peace and quiet, (which God continue) the common lawes of this Realine, hath both aduanced, and enriched many, for (such is the nature of men) as they neuer cease one to molest the other, not beeing by some forraine molestacion offended, they conuert their ambition, and couetous one agaynst the other. Wherupon they call one the other to tryall of law, in those contentions (which are many) the men of lawe, are hired and imployed, to their exceeding profit and gayne. But touching the ciuill lawes, I say that is a most noble knowledg, beeing the law almost vniuersall to all Christendome, & therefore such as attaine to the knowledg therof, shall not onely in this lande, & many other, haue themselves to get their owne liueload: But also be men most fit to counsell Princes, and all estates of governments both in causes Ciuill and Martiall; for
by

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

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by them all differentes bee dissided: The learned Ciuilian therfore (besides his owne perticuler) is a man very fit, & imployable in all counsels of estate and Ambassages, as hee that is skilfull of the gouernment vniuersall. And if (as before I sayd) his learninge begotten in forraine Countreys, he shall also bee helped with language and some experience.

Vincent.

Surely for, this is more then I euer hard, for I supposed the onely profite and reputation of this learninge had been in the Arches and Spiritual Courtes, as wee call them. But now I finde that Ciuilians, can serue better purposes, and in every christian countrey, make thiste to earne their owne liuings. I pray you what shall we dispose of those young men, & loue a Lawnce or a Sword better then either a Booke, or a long gowne?

Vallentine.

I thinke, I tolde you talking of the Countrey, that in my pooore opinion there was no Gentilman (vnlesse hee were witlesse,) but might bee made fit for sumwhat. Such therfore, as were persons disposed of Body, after the age beforesayde, and not affected to the studdie of these lawes, I would notwithstanding holde them in loue of the Mathematicall Sciences, and preferre them into the seruice of Noble men, and Captaynes, eyther at home, or els in forraine Countreys, who haunting the warres, shal instruct these young fellows, in all orders and Martiall discipline, wherein helped with the knowledge of the sayde Science.

They

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

They shall in thout space, become not onely good and obediēte **Souldiers**: But also skilfull commanders, and pettite **Captaines**. Others also may with daily practise prooue excellent in the Art of Riddinge, and others in Saylinge or Navigation: So as the Martiall exercises bee diuerse, all fitte for a Gentleman, & most expedient for the Princes seruice.

Vincent.

But these qualities bee (as I thinke) slow occupations to thzue by: notwithstanding they are full painefull and perilous, many men, yea (euery man at one time or other) haue neede of a **Lawier**: But a **Captaine**, a man of Armes, or a **Souldiour** (cheerly in time of peace) no man needeth. If therefore a young Gentleman, beeing of eyghterne or twenty yeares old, should during time, sixe, or seuen yeares nexte after, wholly endeuour him selfe in these disciplines and Martiall exercises, and doth become in them expert, or happely excellent, returned home into Englande, where all is peace, what vble were there of his vertue, or who would maintayne him?

Vallentine.

I must say those sortes of men seruiceable, bee not so well provided for as they deserue, & I desire. Notwithstanding, sith the number of Gentlemen, who apply them selues that wayes bee not many: I iudge beeing men in deede of vertue and value, our Prince, (for that shee is both liberall, and bairourous,) would willingly afforde them mayntenance, besides that, there are diuerse Noble men and great Councellozs, some very souldiers them selues,

Cyule and vnciuile life.

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selues, and some louers, as well of armes as learning that would likewise put their handes to helpe so vertuous and industrious a youth.

Vincent.

And so do I suppose also, and doe heare it daily wished, that all sortes of men imployable in the state were provided for: notwithstanding, sith the vse of these is but seldome, I see no ordinance, or speciall prouision for them. And in deede, a man not needed, seemeth superfluous, and may be forgotten.

Vallentine.

You haue reasoned wisely, but not well, for if your Horse should no longer bee allowed prouender, then during the time you ride him, I warrant you your iourney could not bee longe. Or if your seruant should haue wages, but for howres wherein he labourerh, then should you pay him but for half the yeare, for euery night (as reason is) hee resteth.

Vincent.

You are (Maister Vallentine,) very nimbly witted, and therefore will I not reple, but in that which reason doth maintaine. And touching our matter, Let vs presuppose that some younge Gentleman hath in the prime of his youth disposed him selfe industriously in stiddy, warres, and trauell, where hee caught that knowledge or experiēce, that doth recomende him to the Princes seruice: what is the order of the life there, and wherein shall he exercise him selfe at the first cominge, or after some yeares of aboad there, and at what age may hee without offence, and in reason, retire him selfe.

A

Vallentine.

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

Vallentine.

You are very discrete and orderly in all your demands, I would wish you to aske of more skilfull Courtiers, for though I haue seene the Courtes of sundry forraine Princes, and serued longe our owne Soueraigne, yet dare I not accompt my self so perfite, as to enforme you in euery of these.

Vincent.

I haue saide, and so I must once more say, that you are ouer full of respectes, which humoz you found beyond the Mountaynes: I pray you laye by this curiositie, and do (as you partly promised,) tell of the order of a Courtly life, and what exercises becommeth a Courtier in euery age, and begin at five and twenty yeares, or there about, for before that time, a young Gentleman may haue both studied in Schooles, seen the warre, and trauelled Countreys: Which three thinges, or at the least one of the, in any wise I wish a Gentleman should doo, to make him worthy of a Princes seruice.

Vallentine.

Such a man, beeinge retained to the Prince, his best meane to aduancement (as I thinke) is to excell, (if possible hee may) in that he professeth, adding therunto diligence, and fidelity in seruice. And if hee professeth (specially) armes, I would he aduentured him selfe, in euery honourable warre, till such time as hee hath gayned the true knowledge and reputation of a Souldier. And touching the exercises of such a one, duringe his aboad in Court, it shall well become his age and profession, to handle all sort of armes, both on horseback and foote, leape, daunce, runne, ride, (and if hee so like)

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

like) play at all sortes of games, so that hee accompanieth either his betters or equals, and that with such discretio, as his loss be not at any time so great as to occasion his ruyn: It will also stand wel with his condition to entertaine Ladies, and serue specially some one, whose vertue and priuate curtesie, doth at his hand best deserue. One other thinge also I wish hee vsed, I meane that at the least, one houre of euery day hee should read, either in some notable History, or excellent Discourse: for that will much exercise the minde, & encrease the knowledge.

Vincent.

It is true, that as the strength of body vnused, will quickly decay, so will also the wit and memory. But I pray you tell mee when these lusty exercises will become a Gentleman, I meane, whither they bee seemely all his life, or but only for some certaine yeares?

Vallentine.

In this question I am sure you answered your selfe, that they are seldome seemely, in a man of ripe age, and in olde yeares very rediculous. For if you should see an olde Gentleman, with a white or grisly beard, take vpon him to daunce, or turney for his Mistresse fauour, I suppose you would not looke on him without laughter, nor seee without disdain: yea, (such is the force of euilnesse) as euén in those that make profession of dauncing, vnlesse their yeares be fit for the vse therof, they doo rather instruct others, then vse it them selues. But armes becometh a Gentleman in all ages: But yet diuersly, for old men must only in earnest vse it.

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But

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

But young men both in earnest & spozte, are bound
to that exercise.

Vincent.

Yet haue you not tolde mee how longe this lyfe
will be seemely.

Vallentine.

I pray you presse mee no more with these de-
maunds, for I referred you to a booke & can better
enforme you. Yet sith you seeke my opinion, I say
(as in a sorte I haue already sayd) that these exer-
cises of bodie, doo only become youth: And there-
fore that age (which I suppose by the Philosophers
rule) endeth at thirty and fiue yeares doth onely
grace a Gentleman in them. After that time, bee-
inge of capassitie, and experience, hee is rather to
be imploied in serious seruices, then left at leysure,
to entertayne Ladies, or Daunce a Galliard.

Vincent.

But if it happeneth hee bee not bled in any action
meete for his age and skill: But either through
want of occasion, freendes or fortune, let stand still
in his first estate, without either aduancement, or
imploiment, heeing no longer fit for loue and dal-
liance: How would hee grace him self in Court?

Vallentine.

Truly (as I take it) heeing come to the declyne of
his age, and drawing neare to fortye yeares, hee
may without offence retire him selfe, and resigne
his ordinary attendance, resortinge some times to
see his Soueraigne, as a cheefe comfort. For if
you consider well, that place which requireth the
person of a younge man, will misbecome the same
body heeing in yeares: also, while youth and lust
lasted

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

lasted, there was hope of good: which now decayed the man becometh not only unfit for the place he vsed: But also (not preferred) looseth the reputation, wherein his vertue and expectation did holde him.

Vincent.

You speake like a man of experience and iudgement, as one that knoweth what is beeseeming in euery age, and estate. Notwithstandinge I see some vnaduaunced, & also vnemployed Courtiers, that dwell in their young places of seruice, euen to their last yeares.

Vallentine.

Euen so in troth it is, and the occasions thereof diuerse. Some there are of those men, very imployable, yet therewith deeply infected with ambition, and therfore will neuer leaue the Courte, clearly forgetting, that Fortune is a woman, which sexe seldome preferreth folke of declining age.

Others hauinge happely committed some error, and therby incurred the princes offence, beeing penitent, and desirous to recouer fauour and reputation, doo notwithstanding they knowe them selues ouer aged for their profession, stil attend a plausible departure: which is not quickly obtayned, for (you wot well) Ira, and Irabundia, bee speedier passions, then are Bencuolentia and Gratia.

Vincent.

The thirde sorte, are the Children of Phao, who for want of wit, will imagine they bee euer young, neuer knowinge what becometh them, but still stay in Courte without countenance, not to aspire to any thinge, but to eate and drinke among Lords.

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Cyuite and vnciuile life.

For them was the Florentyne Prouerbe deuised,
which saith: Chi S'inuecchia in Corte in paglia more.

Vincent.

Sir, you needed not so far to haue fetched a Prouerbe, to apply to this purpose, for wee haue one of our owne: But I thanke you for yours, you teach mee betwixt times, some beyond sea.

Vallentine.

Then (Maister Vincent,) sith you encounter mee with mockes, I will speake no more of Court, but as I haue oft tolde, with you to peruse the booke of the Courtier.

Vincent.

Yet one word more of the Court, and then speake whereof you please. You seemed, to say that Learning & Armes, were the true professions of a gentleman, would you then that when hee cometh to age hee should abandon one of them? I meane Armes: or be so discourteous, as no longer to loue Ladyes.

Vallentine.

I meane nothing lesse: But that duringe life, a Gentleman should professe Armes, and at occasions, vse them (as I tolde you before) in age earnestly, in youth, both in earnest & spozte. Also I would haue all Gentlemen, euen to their dying dayes, to honour Ladyes, although to serue them daily in Courte and dalliance, I holde olde men farre vni-meete.

Vincent

I am satisfied, and because you haue so ofte adressed mee to the Earle Baldazar, I will speake no
more

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

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more of Courte, but come home to the Cittie, which is or ought to bee our habitation: Doth it please you to commaunde mee anye seruice there?

Vallentine.

No seruice good syr, but desire you will commaund mee, wherin I am able.

Vincent.

I know your abilitie to bee much more then I will imploze: But lithe you so freely offer your selfe, I praye you (but not commaund you) to tell what is your order of life in the Cittie, and which bee your exercises, both of body and minde.

Vallentine.

The manner of the most Gentlemen, and Noble men also, is to house them selues (if possible they may) in the Subburbes of the Cittie, because mooste commonly the ayre there beeinge somewhat at large, the place is healthy, and through the distance from the bodye of the Towne, the noyse not much: and so consequently quiet. Also for commoditie wee finde many lodgings, both spacious and roomethy, with Gardaines, and Orchardes very delectable. So as with good gouernment, wee haue as litle cause to feare infection there, as in the verve Countrey: our water is excellent, and much better then you haue anye, our ground and feeldes most pleasaunte, our fier equall with yours. This much touchinge the site of our Towne dwellinge and the Elements.

Vincent.

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

Vincent.

Then my desire is to know, how you be furnished of all sortes of prouision: as flesh and fish, beere and bread, wood and coale, hay and oates, with euery other thing needfull, either for your ordinary expences, or for feasting your freendes at occasions.

Vallentine.

All these thinges wee haue with lesse labour then you of the Countrey, where the same doth grow: for either it is brought to our very Gates, and offered vs, or els in the Market, hard at hand, wee may buy it.

Vincent.

But so dearely, as euery penny worth of prouision in the Countrey, is worth three of yours.

Vallentine.

That may hap so to bee, and yet (as I tolde you already) I may better afforde a penny for three Egges in the Cittie, then for nine in the Countrey.

Vincent.

And how can that bee, is not nine more then three, and will goe further?

Vallentine.

Yes truly, but sith a penny in Egges wil serue the turne, for my selfe I keepe in the Cittie: And your penny though it bringeth you more plenty, yet seeing you haue so much people, as will deuoure it, commeth not the matter to one reckoning: saue that the aduantage is ours, that in roasting our three Egges is not so great troubles as yours, in roasting of nine.

Vincent

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

Vincent.

Certainely (Maister Vallentine,) you are an excellent Arithmetrition among egges: But I pray you tell mee howe that our children bee brought vp, and where shall wee haue Schoolemaisters to teache them?

Vallentine.

A great number of better then any Sir Iohn of the Countrey, who most commonly teacheth your children, that him selfe knoweth not, and yet either because you are lothe your Babes should be set far from your fleeces, or that there you may haue the taught best cheape, you will in no wise seeke out a skillfull Tutor in deede. But when you shall inhabit the Cittie, you haue there choice of excellent Maisters, not only for the Grammer, and such boy studies, but also in all sortes of learning.

Vincent.

That is a very good thinge, and an excellent commodity. Now I desire you to instructe mee, what repaire will bee to our houses, and howe wee are to entertaine them, for I am ignorant in all, because I neuer dwelt in the Cittie.

Vallentine.

Of my former speeche, comparing the Country custome with ours, you might haue gathered, that vnoccasioned, or not contrpyued, no man will resort vnto your Town house, except he be your brother, your sonne, or some dere friend, whom you account as your selfe, els none without occasion, which happening, they that seke you are so respectiue, as neither at the houre of dinner or supper, they will looke you, if their busines doth not very much brye them.

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

them. And if happely you do innite any, of what condition soeuer hee bee, his seruantes doo not charge you, no nor trouble you, for they retire, till such time as their Maister haue dined, of what degree or title so euier is sayd Lorde or Maister bee. So as the greatest Lord shal no more pester your Hall, or disorder your prouision, then y least gentleman, or meanest freend, (except it) bee that for one meale, you will to honour the great guest make your fare the better.

Vincent.

That is a great sauing to my purse, and sparing mee from trouble: In Country the custome is contrary, the charge of our Halles is more then our owne Table, and the trouble to serue the seruants exceeding. But when wee haue no company but by these happes, wee shalbe (I suppose) very solitary.

Vallentine.

Euen so much as pleaseth your selfe, for when you list to farry alone, no man will presse you: if you wilbe accompanied, a small conuitation will traine freendes vnto you, and these men of more ciuilitie, wisdom, and worth, then your rude Countrey Gentlemen, or rusticall Neighboures. If you delight in graue men & sober, you shal easily acquaint your selfe with such. If you pleasure in myrth and pleasant companions, they are at hand. If you like of learned men, there are they found. If you wil haue or hunt, there are faukners & hunters enough. If you will ride, there are horsemen. And to bee short, you shal neuer lacke company at for your honour, age, and desire.

Vincent.

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Vincent.

I am very glad of those newes, for wee Countrey Gentlemen loue not to eate, nor dwell alone: But yet mee thinke I shall hazard my health: notwithstandinge, if my body bee diseased (as it may bee, whersoener I dwell) wee may haue (I suppose) plenty of Whisitions to cure vs. The wante of which men is cause that in the Countrey, many do I think daily perish, whose liues might by their skill bee preserued.

Vallentine.

Yea certainly sye, many in deede for want of good inedicines doo no doubt miscarry: And euen in mine owne experience I haue knowe a Gentleman or two, that were driuen to die, for want of a poore Surgion, or a Barber to let them blood.

Vincent.

The more is the pitty. Now hauing hard what site I shall haue for my towne habitation, and likewise how I may be accompanied, I desire to know with what matters I shall entertaine my minde, and exercise my body.

Vallentine.

I haue tolde you often, and euer will tell you, that the cheefe and principall studies, and delight of a Gentleman, must bee learninge and Armes; And therefore such as haue ciuilly brought vp, do seldom muse on other matters. For though they refuse not for company & conuersation to haue & hunte, fish and fowle, Bowle or coyte, or any other honest pastime, yet is our most continuall exercise eyther studie or ridinge of great and seruiceable horses, with whome we entertaine our mindes, with the other we exercise our bodies, & with great delight

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Cyuite and vnciuile life.

Are not these occupations to much more purpose then either hauking or huntinge, or any other pastime which you Countrey Gentlemen do vse?

Vincent.

In respect of the common wealth, I suppose they are to better purpose, and yet are they costly: for the buyinge of many booke, and hirling of learned men to instruct you, is a thinge (as I take it) very chargeable. Likewise to maintaine two or three seruiceable horses, with good feedinge and keeping, will prooue exceeding costly.

Vallentine.

You say truly, and yet lay by your haukes, and your dogges with their keepers, and such charges as are incident to those pastimes, then shall you finde that the practise of learninge and armes, is not more costly then these, and to dyceing and cardinge not comperable. You shall also consider, that for those Noble or Gentlemen that bee not bound to attendaunce to follow Court, but at their owne willes, may make provision in the Cittie, and kepe their horses there, it is a matter of supposable expence. And many Gentlemen there are, that spend yearly so much hay and corne, vpon huntinge and haukinge Jades, as would maintayne halfe a dozen able horses to serue their Prince.

Vincent.

But would you haue every Gentleman to kepe seruiceable horses, euen those he liue to the selfe, and receaue no pay of the Prince, either in war or Court?

Vallentine.

Pea surely say, every Gentleman of ability ought
to

Cyuile and vnciuile life.

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to doo it, for vnlesse hee be at all times well armed and horsed, I holde him vnworthy the name of a Gentleman, yea, though hee weareth the longe Roabe.

Vincent.

Then will you put our Gentlemen to double charges, I meane to keepe their haukinge nags, and their hoxses of seruice also.

Vallentine.

I will not wish them to that. For I desire onely to see them furnished like Gentlemen, not like Faulknors: if there were fewer hankes, and more hoxses, I suppose it were better for the state, and more worship for y^e Gentlemen. Also (if you marke it well) it is (besides the necessity,) a better and more commendable sight, to see a Gentleman ride with three fayre hoxses, then fiftene of those vncumly Curtalles.

Vincent.

In that I must also concurre with you in opinion.

Vallentine.

Yea, I am sure you will, and so will euery other man in whō there is either iudgement or courage. And if you were in some Countries, where gentlemen doo in deede liue a ciuill life: You should daily see them so wel mounted, as would greatly delight you. And so great is there the desire of knowledge in Chiuallry, and the vse of armes, as in sundry Citties they haue by consente, erected a pay and pension, for men expert to teach them these knowledges: So as what with their instructions, and their owne exercise, many become cuninge, and some very excellent. The like provisions they haue

Devised,

Devised,

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

deuised, for the knowledge of Philosophy, and the Mathematicall Sciences, entertaining men excellent in them, to read publikely, who for their paines do receaue good rewarde, euen by the only bounty and beneuolence of Noble and Gentlemen, studious of honour and vertue.

Vincent.

How commeth this currage and noble desire of knowledge into those people. more the n vnto vs :

Vallentine.

I dare not take vpo mee to iudge, but (as I gesse) the want of knowledge what honour is, must bee the principall occasion of our want of desire to excel both in learninge and Armes: Yea, in my poore minde, because we dwel in remote place, one gentleman far from other, so as the better cannot inform the worse: there is no meane made to enstruct the ignorant, but euery one disposeth him selfe almost as a poore ploughman, making profit and riches the markes of all his indeuor.

Vincent.

Then it seemeth, that the Cittie, the Court, and other places of assembly, (I meane of Nobility) doth occasion men to learne the customes of curtesy, and pointes of honour :

Vallentine.

No doubt therof, for euen experience doth prooue, that so it is, for if you happen into the company of two Gentlemen, (though in wit and capacity alike) the one brought vp in the Countrey, the other in Court or Cittie, you shall euen at the first sight perceaue by their speeche, lecture, and behauiour, that their educations are diuerse.

Vincent.

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Vincent.

And that may so bee, yet the behauior of both good and gentlemanly enough. For you shall finde few Gentlemen of the Countrey, but they are sumwhat learned, and many of them brought vp in seruice, so longe as they can therby knowe what reuerence or countenance to vse towards all sortes of men.

Vallentine.

That is but your opinion, for I will compare their good manners, or rather their euill manners vnto the skill of an vnskilfull Taylor or shoemaker: who dwelling among the countrey people, doth exercise his occupation: and not beeinge there any better workeman, is holden an excellent artizan: when in deede hee is a plaine bungler, and a very ignorant dolte. Euen so to those that neuer saw any ciuile men: they that weare any good garmentes, are without other consideration, accompted braue Gentlemen, and folke of good nurture.

Vincent.

Then I perceaue that euery man that can make a coate is not a Taylor; nor euery one that hath the name of a Gentleman, and goeth well apparellled, ought bee so reputed: vnklesse the one bee skilfull in his crafte, and the other seemely in his garmentes.

Vallentine.

You take my meaning aright, and yet you must not thinke that these externall thinges, (I meane apparrell and iesture) bee the cheefest ornaments for a Gentleman. For the inwarde vertues and perfections be in troth of most waight, and cheefly required.

Vincent.

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

Vincent.

So haue I hard you already say, but few can attaine to perfection, and not many draw neare vnto it. Yet I thinke you shal finde in the Countrey the most part of those that beare the name of Gentlemen, that they are of capacitie sufficient & hable to talke of their shire wherin they dwel, as of the fertilitye or barennes therof: of hauking or huntinge, fishing or fowlinge, and finally of all such matter as conserne either pleasure or profit, wherfore I finde no want in their wittes to bee supplied, vnles they happely lacke the Arte of Adulation, or the skil of ceremonious speech, which you trauellers haue brought from beyond the Seas.

Vallentine.

Sir you may bee bolde to tell mee of all faultes: For I can willingly confesse, that from far, many haue fetched full euill conditions. But therewith I pray you consider, that who so buyeth corne, must needes put some chaffe into his sackes: And so were yee better do then bring home no corne at all. Euen so hee that seeketh to know the best, must of force, happen vpon some euill: both which a wise man knoweth how to vse, & one to bee stored, the other to bee cast away and detested.

Vincent.

Yet haue you not tolde mee your opinion, touching our Countrey wittes and experience, neither haue you sayde ought, how you allowe of those thinges wherin wee are able to speake.

Vallentine.

I say they are not euil, neither is it vngentlemanlike to haue skill in matters of profit or pleasure.
And

And yet if you ſhould comprehend no greater matter, you ſhould be ſot of ſhankling, or ſanklers for a puiſe, or perhaps hunte for my Lord Maior: but neuer become worthe the name of Gentlemen nor the eſtimation that thereto belongeth.

In deede hee that remember you tolde mee that armes and learning were the only occupations of a Gentleman, and theſe are not in troth any of the. For with ſtandinge you muſt vnderſtand that the moſt of vs haue gone to ſchool, and many haue ſeen ſome parte of the maſters ſchool.

Every boy that hath been beaten for not learning his leſſon, is not to be accounted learned, but hee that in deede hath learning, nor hee that a few dayes hath marched in armour ought be taken for a ſouldier: no more then thoſe that for one nightes ſleepe in Parnaffus Hill, ſhould be reputed perſite Poets.

Vincent.
Truly it ſeemeth a thinge reaſonable, that ſo noble knowledges are not gotten without long labour and perſeuerance. But I pray you tell mee what imperfection you finde in the conuerſation of our Countrey Gentlemen: to whom (to tel you truly) I wiſh either more lettered, or better learned in the Martiall Diſcipline.

Vallentine.
Sith you ſo require mee, I will ſe that (which you ſay is no property of a courtier) plainneſſe. And therefore I tell you, & beſides thoſe qualities you alleaged, I finde nothing els in & Countrey gentle-

Cyuite and viciuile life.

men: & the more not accompanied with some taste
of learning or skilles. I account as nothing worth.
Touching their consideration, you shall besides the
rusticall of their houses and garments, finde them
full of lofty looks, barbarous behaviour, and
vndecent dooings. As for example, some one
will laugh when the other speaketh, or other will cough
before hee telleth his tale: And some will gape or
yabone when hee glaueth the hearinge. So as in
deede (belesse they be of better education, fewe doe
know what cōtēmate to make among equals,
and among their betters, utterly to seke. Also if
they hap to dine at any table, either they are sullen
by silence, or els they fall into speache of their owne
Antecessors, their owne landes, their owne wiues
or children, other subiect of talke yee shall seldome
finde among these sortes of countrey men.

Vincent. In good faith syr, when I remember al mine ac-
quaintance, I confesse that some of them (cheefely
in company) are to seke which way to loke: & much
more how to entertaine. And this I speake not
only of vs that dwell in the countrey, but by your
leale of many Courtiers.

I am not so simple, (though simple of many) but
that I finde in Courte diuerse as vnworthy the
name of Courtiers, as of you that deserue not the
reputation of Gentlemen. But yee necessity and oc-
casion do drabe vs to be of better manner, & cheefly
in our dooings to vse more respect. And would you
practise mine opinion, to liue sumtimes in countrey,
& sumtimes in citie, yee could not choose but know
the thurst of the one, whereof ye boast, and also the
quility of the other.

Vincent.

All men are apt for one thing, and his delights
be diuerse: for as some affect the scholes & learning,
so others take pleasure in husbandry and tillage.
Some haue minde to the warres, & some to wand-
er in forraigne Countreys: others are bounde to
followe princes & affaires, & some are best out of
tarry at home & liue to the selues. Whoe the world
al men be expert in learning & armes. Valentin.

I am glad you come so neare mee, for now will I
put ge to minde, & long hinc I tolde you, which is,
that every gentleman, whilste hee were a child, will
proue fit for some action: either Martiall or Civil. If
he doth not, the fault is in his owne, & doth not offer
himselfe to industry, or his foolish freends & would
not comfort him to it. And so in conclusio, I impute
the fault to Nature, but rather to Nurture.

Vincent.

I had thought that nature had made every man
so affected as that he had been only meet, for that
his freendes put him vnto, or that his Ancestors
before him bled and delighted. Valentin.

Touching that, I will tell you how Licurgus the
Law maker of Lacedemon handled the matter, to
teache the people there, what education besides
nature could do in men. Hee caused two dogges of
one lytter to be brought vp, the one he committed
to a man that delighted in huntinge, and so bled
that whelp: the other was fostered by a poore
villain, willing in no wise that dogge to doo other
then eate and feede fat. These two whelpes being
growen to ripe age, Licurgus commaunded they should
be brought forth in the presence of many people, and
with the a Hare & a potful of poridge, which being

It is

the wed

Civile and uncivile life.

Directed to the dogges, and they both let loose, the one ran after the harte, the other made hast to the porke pot. Wherby the Lacedemonians perceived, that education & not nature, made in all creatures the difference of Delights; though some men are more and some lesse to good things inclined, yet every man apt for some what; though many have made them selves fit for nothing.

Vincen.

To say truely, I haue many good wits, that first for not bringe up frendly admitted to leaue, and after through an habit of such do become both brutish and very lowly. Others both witty and curragious, yet bred to home, and not hearing how betwixt some their equals haue bene, are in time rather beastly than brave, rather effeminate then curragious.

Vallentine.

Well now you see the minde doeth much, and the endeuor therof, maketh men worthy or unworthy the name of Gentleman, of defaults many accide nature, wherof themselves are most gilty.

Vincen.

Concerning then (of that you haue spoken) how the ende of the Courtier is honour, & his exercises, Brines and learning; And that the country gentleman abouth to riches, exercise them in grauing and Tillage. It must needs bee, that their manners and customes are also diuerse. But as they bee in both both equal, so ought they to haue like Delights & customes; wherfore to unite them it becometh that the one sorte do conuinc the other to the other.

Vincen.

Vincen.

Vallentine.

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

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Vallentine.

Then it is meete, that the worse do yeelde to the better, & the vnerpert, to those of best knowledge.

Vincent.

So were it both wisdom and reason.

Vallentine.

And which of those men (as you thinke) liueth most vertuously, and are fittest for the state.

Vincent.

Surely I, since I considered, that we must not liue onely for our selues, and our perticular profite, I am fully perswaded, that a gentleman vnskillfull in Armes and vtterly vnlearned, is seldome found fit for any publique function, or employment: And no man denieth but that man, who is able to gouerne, is a person more worthy and necessary then hee that is gouerned. For Aristotle a Father in Philosophy sayth: Regens est dimus recto.

Vallentine.

I am very glad to heare you so say, for that was all I laboured you to beleue: yet before we put full ende to our speech, let mee intreate you to tell that a good while since, your self offered, which is to resite in briebe, the sum of all our speech, wherby yee shal shew the excellency of your obone memory and also make these Gentlemen our hearers the better to carry away what hath beene sayd.

Vincent.

Understand you then, that through your good reasons (for which I hartely thanke you) I am brought to know that the education of a Gentleman ought bee onely in Learning and Armes, and that no Gentleman, no nor no Noble man should

Cyuite and vnciuile life.

withdraw or holde backe his Sonne from the attayning of these knowledges, which are the very true and only qualities or vertues of a gentleman as things not only be seeming such a person, but also for the service of a Prince or State very necessary.

Secondly, you haue perswaded that in Court or Towne, the life of a Gentleman may bee no lesse godly and charitable, then in the Countrey: In which discourse you set downe what sortes of seruantes were superfluous, and which necessary, both for priuate vse, and the publike state: wherein I also noted, that such younge men as were not borne to lande or lyming, should eyther apply themselves to perfection in learninge or Marchandize, either else to husbandry, or some Mecanicall mistery or occupation: And not to be seruingmen, without other knowledge, least through their Masters want of will to kepe them, or their lacke of skill to earne their owne liueloades, they may be driuen to vnlawfull life or beggery.

Thirdly, in consideration of your reasons I gather, that true honoz consisteth not in the admiration of common people, but in the vertue of him that therewith is indued. And that the reputation which a few wise men do giue vnto a Gentleman, is of more worth then that of the multitude, wherebpon is inferred, that the respect which is borne to any man by them of the Court and Cittie, (being the best and wisest sort) is more estimable then that which is borne by the common people.

Fourthly, you seeme to allow more of many our Countrey sportes & exercises, then of our company
in

in bringe them.

fifthly, that for health and wholesome habitation the Citties, and some cheefe towones in England, are either better or not inferiour to the sitis of the Noble and Gentlemens houses.

Sixtly, I see that the Towne dwellinge doth much surpasse for quietnesse, & that the most parte of Gentlemens countrey houses be frequented as honourable hostries.

And last, that the Court or Cittie habitatio is not abused, is no lesse profitable then $\frac{1}{2}$ of the countrey, & more free from trouble. Thus much of the countrey.

Touching the Court and Cittie, you tolde that a Gentleman ought in the prime of his youth, endeavour him selfe to become sufficient for the service of his Prince. Which sufficiency is attained vnto through study, trauaile, and Martiall endeavour. Informinge briefly, at what age hee ought come to Court, what his exercises should be there, and in what time and fortune it shal become him to retier him selfe from thence: for (as it seemeth,) an olde Courtier vnpreferred and vnimployed, looseth his reputacion, and may be compared to a Non proficiens in Schoole. Concerning the rest, you referre mee to the Booke of the Courtier.

Of the Cittie, you haue sayd sunwhat perticulerly of $\frac{1}{2}$ manner and syte of Gentlemens houses there and likewise, how they may with commoditie and reasonable cost be furnished of al sorte of victuals and other needfull prouision. Also that there be more skilfull Tutors to instruct your children, then wee possible can haue in the Countrey.

You doo also discourse well of the manner of householding

Cyuite and vncyuite life.

householdinge and the resoꝛte of fureydogges in the
towne: which secretly not to be combed out.

And lastly, it appeareth your enclosures be chiefly
in letters and diuines, which bee both commen-
dable and very necessary.

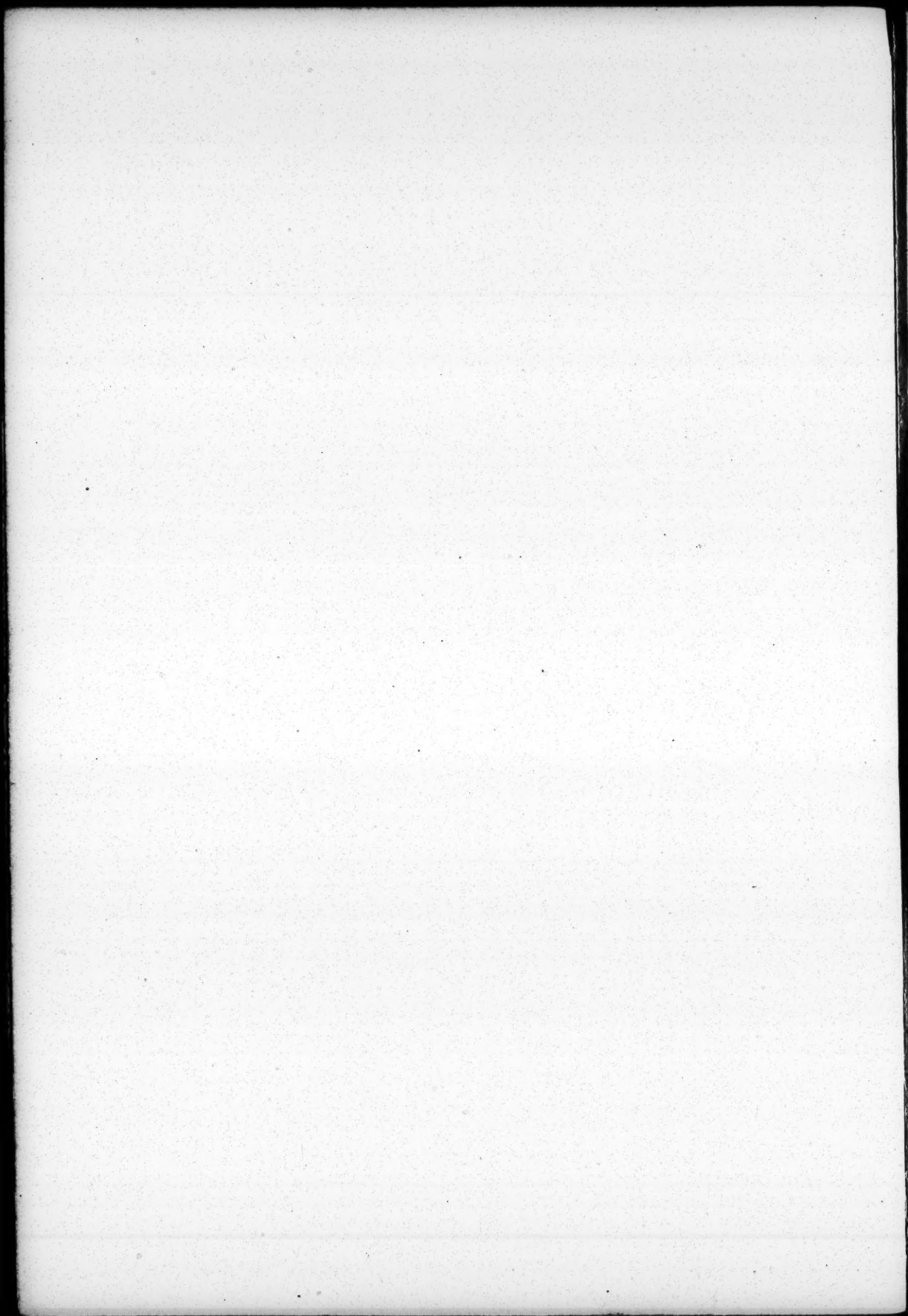
Thus much (as I thinke) is the substance of prin-
cipall partes of your speeche, which I confesse to
bee very reasonable and good, and therefore con-
sent that a Gentleman so brought vp, is more ciuill
then any Country man can bee: Likewise meetest
for gouernment, and for his private vertue mooste to
bee regarded.

Vallentine.

Surely sye, you haue framed a proper Epilogue
of our speeche. And siſthe I see that you both con-
ceaine a right what hath bene perswaded, and are
also brought to beleene what is true, I will presse
you no further, but bidding you most hartely wel-
come to our towne habitation, as a place fittest for
a Gentleman.

I take my leaue.

FINIS.



c.p.

Perfect

Requench

J.S. Ferguson

K.V. 1912

1947 [CYUILE AND VNCYUILE LIFE.] THE ENGLISH COURTIER, AND
THE CŪTREY-GENTLEMAN: A pleasaunt and learned Disputation,
betweene them both: very profitable and necessarie to be read of
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lyfe, best beseemeth a Gentleman (as well, for education, as the
course of his whole life) to make him a person fytted for the publique
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C.